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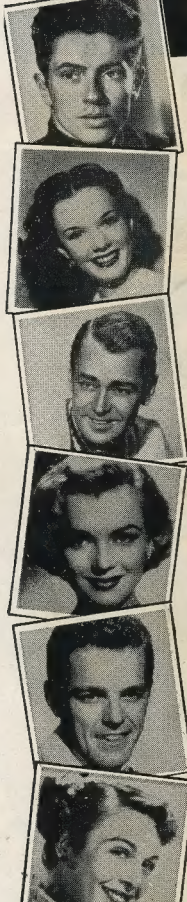

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The following outstanding magazines are easily identified on their covers by the words A CHARLTON PUBLICATION

ATOMIC MOUSE ★ COWBOY WESTERN HEROES ★ CRIME AND JUSTICE ★ FUNNY ANIMALS ★ EMI Dig this crazy comic ★ HAUNTED ★ HOT RODS AND RACING CARS ★ ZOO FUNNIES ★ LASH LARUE WESTERN ★ ROCKY LANE WESTERN ★ RACKET SQUAD ★ SIX-GUN HEROES ★ ROMANTIC STORY ★ SCIENCE-FICTION SPACE ADVENTURES ★ STRANGE SUSPENSE STORIES ★ SWEETHEARTS ★ TEX RITTER WESTERN ★ TRUE LIFE SECRETS ★ TV TEENS ★ THE THING ★ MY LITTLE MARGIE

Every effort is made to insure that these comic magazines contain the highest quality of wholesome entertainment

SECOND FIDDLE

DIDN'T MIND PLAYING "SECOND FIDDLE" TO MY SISTER JOYCE, IN A LION TAMING ACT... BUT WHEN SHE FINALLY TAMED THE MAN I SECRETLY LOVED -- I MADE A DESPERATE DECISION TO END IT, ONCE AND FOR ALL!"

GRAWR

SHOOT! JANET, SHOOT! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

WINIK OSRIM

THAT LAST ACT YOU DID, JOYCE, WAS THE GREATEST I'VE EVER SEEN! YOU HAD THOSE BIG CATS BEHAVING LIKE KITTENS!

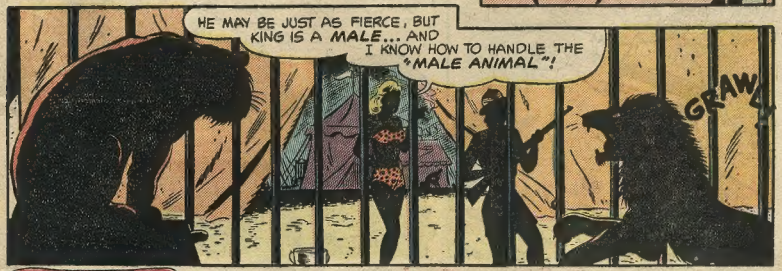
ALL BUT THAT SIX HUNDRED POUND BEAST **RAJAH**! LOOK WHAT HE DID TO MY SHOULDER, DICK!

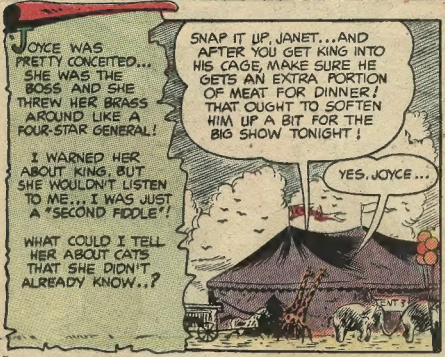
ROMANTIC STORY

SAY...THAT SCRATCH DOES LOOK BAD...
I TOLD YOU TO GET RID OF THAT CAT BEFORE HE CAUSES PERMANENT DAMAGE! EITHER RAJAH GOES OR I GO!
JOYCE...YOU BETTER LET ME PUT SOME OF THIS DISINFECTANT ON...

THE FOLLOWING DAY, AT REHEARSAL...
ALL RIGHT, KING, GET A MOVE ON! COME ON, BOY... LET'S NOT BE TEMPERAMENTAL! PRIMA DONNAS LIKE RAJAH DON'T LAST LONG AROUND HERE!

OKAY, JANET, YOU CAN PUT KING BACK IN HIS CAGE. HE'S REPLACING RAJAH IN THE MAIN ACT!
BUT, JOYCE... KING IS JUST AS FIERCE AS RAJAH!


HE MAY BE JUST AS FIERCE, BUT KING IS A MALE... AND I KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THE "MALE ANIMAL"!
GRAWL

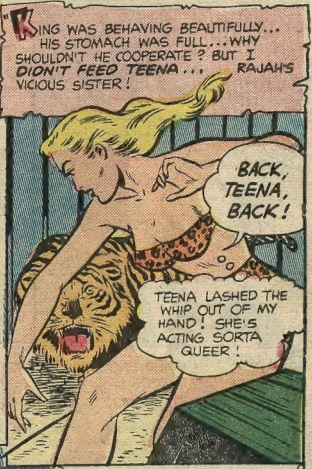

JOYCE WAS PRETTY CONCEITED... SHE WAS THE BOSS AND SHE THREW HER BRASS AROUND LIKE A FOUR-STAR GENERAL!
I WARNED HER ABOUT KING, BUT SHE WOULDN'T LISTEN TO ME... I WAS JUST A "SECOND FIDDLE"!
WHAT COULD I TELL HER ABOUT CATS THAT SHE DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW..?
SNAP IT UP, JANET... AND AFTER YOU GET KING INTO HIS CAGE, MAKE SURE HE GETS AN EXTRA PORTION OF MEAT FOR DINNER! THAT OUGHT TO SOFTEN HIM UP A BIT FOR THE BIG SHOW TONIGHT!
YES, JOYCE...
REVT!

SO LONG FOR NOW, KIDDO... I HAVE A LUNCHEON DATE WITH DICK!
AND WHAT IF I DON'T GIVE KING AN EXTRA PORTION?

LATER THAT AFTERNOON...
HI, SOUR PUSS! DID YOU FEED THOSE CATS YET?
THE CATS?... OH, Y-YES.. I FED THEM. WHERE'S JOYCE... I THOUGHT YOU TWO HAD A DATE THIS MORNING!
DIDN'T SHE TELL YOU? WE'RE GOING TO A FORMAL DANCE TOMORROW...WE WERE OUT SHOPPING FOR AN EVENING GOWN...I COULDN'T TAKE THE STRAIN ...SO I LEFT JOYCE TO DO HER OWN SELECTING!
HEY! WHY SO DOWN IN THE MOUTH? DIDN'T YOUR BOY FRIEND ASK YOU TO GO OUT WITH HIM?
STOP IT!
I-I DON'T FEEL WELL, DICK...P-PLEASE TAKE ME TO MY TENT...
OH, FORGIVE ME, JANET. I HOPE I'M NOT THE CAUSE OF IT... I WAS JUST PULLING YOUR LEG.
ALRIGHTY, FOLKS! HURRY—HURRY—HURRY! YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH! SEE THE FUNNY CLOWNS, SEE THE "DARE-DEVIL SISTERS"—JOYCE AND JANET—TAME THE SAVAGE BEASTS!...

OKAY, JANET...LOCK THE GATE!...AND KEEP YOUR HAND ON YOUR GUN! THEY DON'T LOOK TOO HAPPY TODAY...
ROW-W-L!

LET'S GO, KING!


"KING WAS BEHAVING BEAUTIFULLY... HIS STOMACH WAS FULL...WHY SHOULDN'T HE COOPERATE? BUT I DIDN'T FEED TEENA... RAJAH'S VICIOUS SISTER!
BACK, TEENA, BACK!
TEENA LASHED THE WHIP OUT OF MY HAND! SHE'S ACTING SORTA QUEER!

LOOK!! THE CAT JUMPED HER!

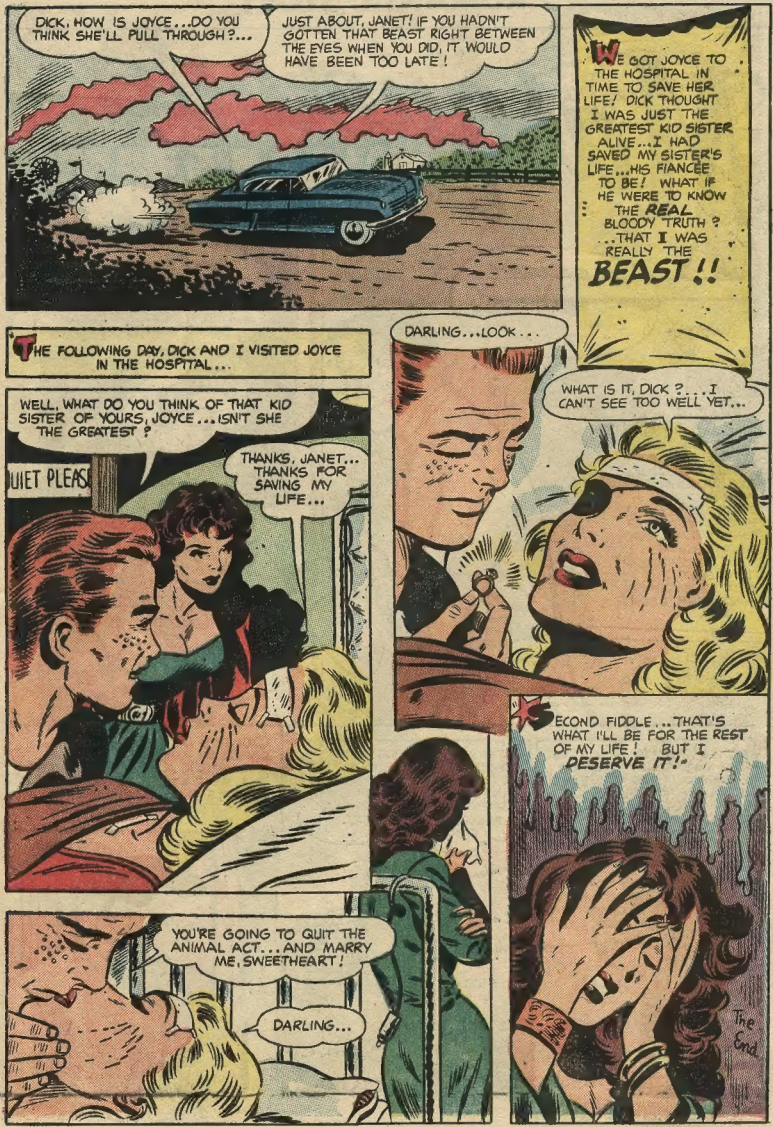
SHOOT JANET! SHOOT TO KILL! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

SHE ALWAYS GETS WHAT SHE WANTS!
SHE'S THE STAR AND I'M THE NOBODY!
THIS COULD BE MY CHANCE TO WIN DICK!

NO! NO! I CAN'T DO IT!

BAM! BAM! BAM!
QUICK, JANET! OPEN THE GATE!

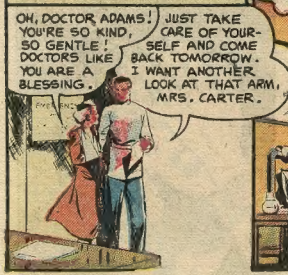
STAND BACK, FOLKS! GIVE THE POOR GIRL AIR!... JANET, GET MY CAR! WE'VE GOT TO GET YOUR SISTER TO A HOSPITAL!
OH-H·· I HOPE SHE'S NOT SERIOUSLY HURT! WHAT A JEALOUS FOOL I'VE BEEN!

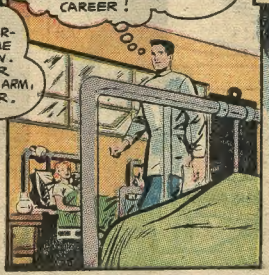

DICK, HOW IS JOYCE...DO YOU THINK SHE'LL PULL THROUGH?...
JUST ABOUT, JANET! IF YOU HADN'T GOTTEN THAT BEAST RIGHT BETWEEN THE EYES WHEN YOU DID, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO LATE!
WE GOT JOYCE TO THE HOSPITAL IN TIME TO SAVE HER LIFE! DICK THOUGHT I WAS JUST THE GREATEST KID SISTER ALIVE...I HAD SAVED MY SISTER'S LIFE...HIS FIANCÉE TO BE! WHAT IF HE WERE TO KNOW THE REAL BLOODY TRUTH? ...THAT I WAS REALLY THE BEAST!!
THE FOLLOWING DAY, DICK AND I VISITED JOYCE IN THE HOSPITAL...
WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT KID SISTER OF YOURS, JOYCE...ISN'T SHE THE GREATEST?
QUIET PLEASE
THANKS, JANET... THANKS FOR SAVING MY LIFE...
DARLING...LOOK...
WHAT IS IT, DICK?...I CAN'T SEE TOO WELL YET...
SECOND FIDDLE...THAT'S WHAT I'LL BE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE! BUT I DESERVE IT!
YOU'RE GOING TO QUIT THE ANIMAL ACT...AND MARRY ME, SWEETHEART!
DARLING...
The End

Masquerade in WHITE

BUT GAIL, DON'T YOU SEE? I'VE WORKED SO HARD, SACRIFICED SO MUCH FOR MY CAREER... I CAN'T GIVE IT UP NOW!
YOU'RE DELUDING YOURSELF, VERNE. YOU CAN GO ON FOOLING THE WORLD, BUT YOU AND I WILL ALWAYS KNOW THE TRUTH. YOU'RE A CHEAP FRAUD AND A CHARLATAN!
CAUGHT UP IN THE MAD DREAM OF HIS AMBITION, VERNE ADAMS NEVER REALIZED THE DANGEROUS PATH HE TROD UNTIL HE'D FOUND HIMSELF STANDING ON THE BRINK OF A YAWNING ABYSS THAT THREATENED TO ENGULF THE ONLY LOVE THAT HAD EVER BEEN HIS.

AS I USHERED MY PATIENT OUT OF THE EMERGENCY ROOM OF THE PINE POINT HOSPITAL, I FELT AN EXHILARATING SURGE OF PRIDE AT HER OBVIOUS REVERENCE AND ADMIRATION.


OH, DOCTOR ADAMS! YOU'RE SO KIND, SO GENTLE! DOCTORS LIKE YOU ARE A BLESSING.
JUST TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF AND COME BACK TOMORROW. I WANT ANOTHER LOOK AT THAT ARM, MRS. CARTER.

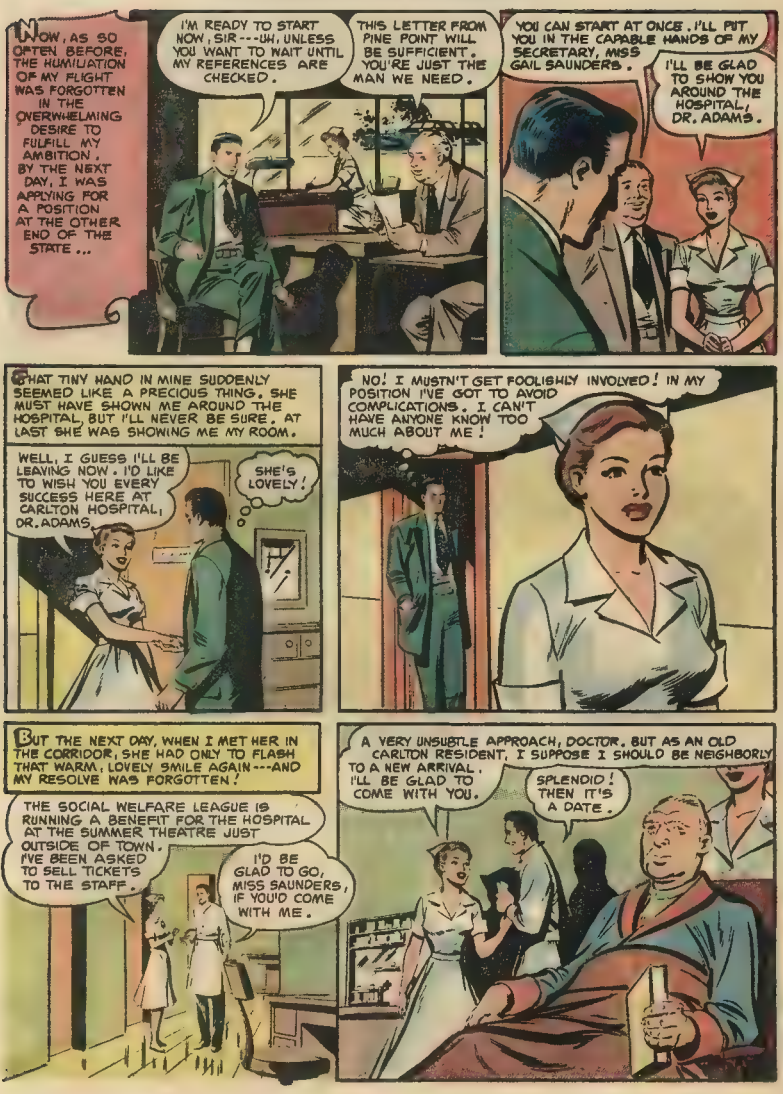

IT'S LIKE A DREAM. ONLY TWO YEARS AGO I WAS JUST A DISCHARGED ARMY MEDIC. AND NOW I'M REALIZING MY GREATEST AMBITION---A SUCCESSFUL MEDICAL CAREER!

MOMENTS LATER IN THE HOSPITAL OFFICE, MY EXULTANT MOOD WAS SWAMPED IN A WAVE OF APPREHENSION AS I WENT THROUGH THE MORNING MAIL. MY HUMILIATING SECRET HAD FOLLOWED ME TO PINE POINT...

ROMANTIC STORY

BLAST THE LUCK! I KNEW IT WOULD HAPPEN AS SOON AS THEY CHECKED MY REFERENCES. NOW I'VE GOT TO BE ON THE MOVE AGAIN!
In reply to your inquiry Dr. Verne interned seven at United Western Med. Coal College he may be an impostor Please check with us
MY MIND WORKED WITH THE EFFORTLESS EASE YOU GET FROM LIVING BY YOUR WITS. BY THE TIME THE HOSPITAL SUPERINTENDENT ARRIVED, MY CLUB STORY WAS READY.
I'VE JUST RECEIVED TERRIBLE NEWS, DR. BLAINE. MY FATHER'S VERY ILL. I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE AT ONCE. I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO COME BACK. MY MOTHER WILL NEED ME.
I'M SORRY TO SEE YOU LEAVE. YOU WERE MORE THAN VALUABLE, VERNE. I'LL GIVE YOU THE FINEST REFERENCES, OF COURSE.
AND SO AN HOUR LATER FOUND ME ON THE ROAD, THE NARROWNESS OF MY ESCAPE FORGOTTEN AS I RAILLED AT MY FATE.
A LETTER, THAT'S ALL IT TAKES TO UPROOT ME, SEND ME RUNNING. FOR YEARS I'VE DREAMED OF BEING A DOCTOR, DEVOTING MY LIFE TO PRACTICING MEDICINE! BUT THEY'RE ONLY INTERESTED IN A MEDICAL DIPLOMA, A SCRAP OF PAPER!
I KNOW AS MUCH AS ANY OF THE DOCTORS I'VE WORKED WITH. DR. BLAINE'S LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION PROVES THAT. MY YEARS IN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS GAVE ME EXPERIENCE!
IT CAME BACK TO ME NOW. THE YEARS IN ARMY HOSPITALS ---ON THE BATTLE FIELD MY DEVOTED STUDY OF MEDICAL BOOKS AND JOURNALS. ALL THE THINGS WHICH HAD KINDLED WITHIN ME THE DESIRE FOR THE GLAMOUR OF A DOCTOR'S CAREER.
AFTER MY DISCHARGE THEY TOLD ME IT WOULD TAKE YEARS OF STUDY TO EARN A MEDICAL DEGREE. STUDY! WHEN I ALREADY KNEW MORE ABOUT MEDICINE THAN THOSE QUACKS WOULD EVER KNOW!
WELL, I'VE SHOWN THEM I DON'T NEED A DEGREE, AND I'LL SHOW THEM AGAIN! SOMEWHERE I'LL FIND ANOTHER POST. I'LL PROVE I CAN BECOME A SUCCESSFUL DOCTOR.

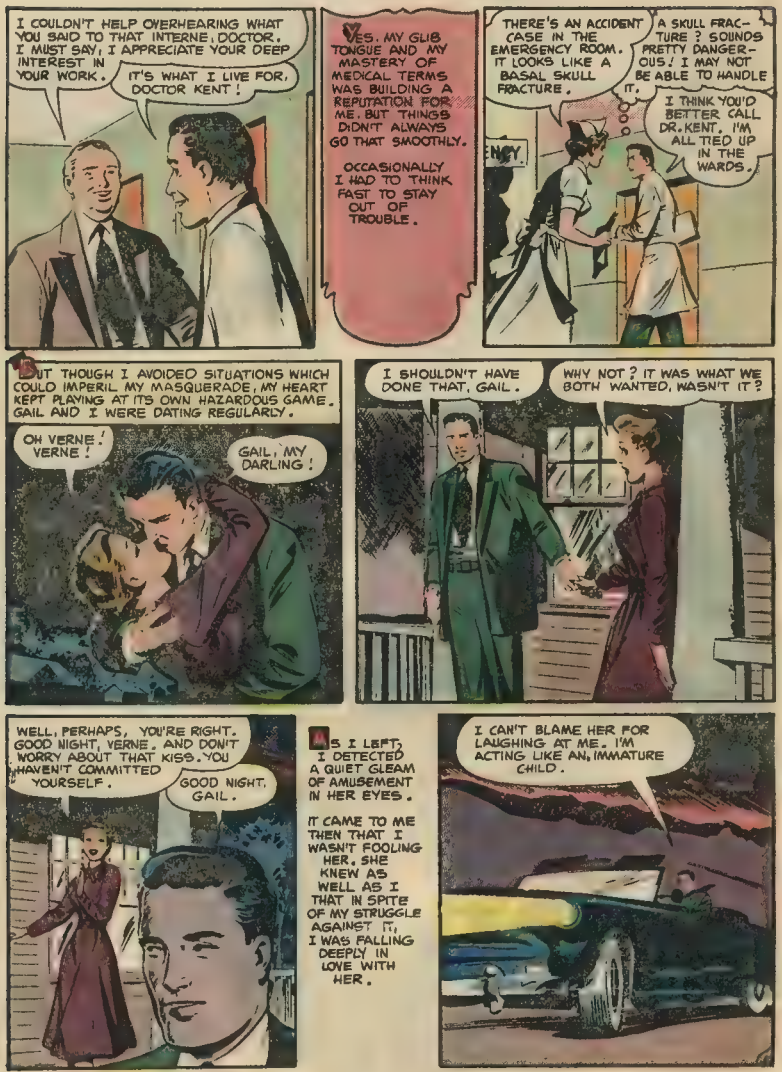
ROMANTIC STORY


NOW, AS SO OFTEN BEFORE, THE HUMILIATION OF MY FLIGHT WAS FORGOTTEN IN THE OVERWHELMING DESIRE TO FULFILL MY AMBITION. BY THE NEXT DAY, I WAS APPLYING FOR A POSITION AT THE OTHER END OF THE STATE...
I'M READY TO START NOW, SIR---UH, UNLESS YOU WANT TO WAIT UNTIL MY REFERENCES ARE CHECKED.
THIS LETTER FROM PINE POINT WILL BE SUFFICIENT. YOU'RE JUST THE MAN WE NEED.
YOU CAN START AT ONCE. I'LL PUT YOU IN THE CAPABLE HANDS OF MY SECRETARY, MISS GAIL SAUNDERS.
I'LL BE GLAD TO SHOW YOU AROUND THE HOSPITAL, DR. ADAMS.
THAT TINY HAND IN MINE SUDDENLY SEEMED LIKE A PRECIOUS THING. SHE MUST HAVE SHOWN ME AROUND THE HOSPITAL, BUT I'LL NEVER BE SURE. AT LAST SHE WAS SHOWING ME MY ROOM.
WELL, I GUESS I'LL BE LEAVING NOW. I'D LIKE TO WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS HERE AT CARLTON HOSPITAL, DR. ADAMS.
SHE'S LOVELY!
NO! I MUSTN'T GET FOOLISHLY INVOLVED! IN MY POSITION I'VE GOT TO AVOID COMPLICATIONS. I CAN'T HAVE ANYONE KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT ME!
BUT THE NEXT DAY, WHEN I MET HER IN THE CORRIDOR, SHE HAD ONLY TO FLASH THAT WARM, LOVELY SMILE AGAIN---AND MY RESOLVE WAS FORGOTTEN!
THE SOCIAL WELFARE LEAGUE IS RUNNING A BENEFIT FOR THE HOSPITAL AT THE SUMMER THEATRE JUST OUTSIDE OF TOWN. I'VE BEEN ASKED TO SELL TICKETS TO THE STAFF.
I'D BE GLAD TO GO, MISS SAUNDERS, IF YOU'D COME WITH ME.
A VERY UNSUBTLE APPROACH, DOCTOR. BUT AS AN OLD CARLTON RESIDENT, I SUPPOSE I SHOULD BE NEIGHBORLY TO A NEW ARRIVAL. I'LL BE GLAD TO COME WITH YOU.
SPLENDID! THEN IT'S A DATE.

ROMANTIC STORY

A HUNDRED TIMES THAT WEEK I CALLED MYSELF A FOOL FOR MAKING THE DATE, BUT WHEN THAT MAGIC EVENING ARRIVED, I FORGOT MY MISGIVINGS IN GAIL'S GRACIOUS PRESENCE. WHEN THE PERFORMANCE WAS OVER---
IT WAS A WONDERFUL PLAY... NOW AREN'T YOU GLAD YOU CAME?
I AM, FOR MORE THAN ONE REASON.
BY THE TIME THE EVENING DREW TO A CLOSE SHE HAD ME TALKING ABOUT MYSELF AS THOUGH WE WERE OLD FRIENDS.
---AFTER MY PARENTS DIED, IT WAS ROUGH GOING. BUT BY WORKING NIGHTS I MANAGED TO GRADUATE COLLEGE AND FINISH MY PRE-MED COURSE.
AFTER THAT IT WAS WESTERN MEDICAL. I STOKED FURNACES, WAITED ON TABLES, SWEPT FLOORS TO EARN MY TUITION. BUT I GRADUATED WITH HONORS.
IT'S AN ACCOMPLISHEMENT TO BE PROUD OF, VERNE.
HER EYES BRIMMED WITH ADMIRATION. HOW COULD SHE KNOW MY WHOLE STORY WAS A LIE FROM BEGINNING TO END? ONE OF THE WELL-REHEARSED TALES I OFTEN USED TO FILL IN THE BACKGROUND OF MY MYTHICAL CAREER? I AROSE, FIGHTING BACK A WAVE OF SHAME.
I THINK I'D BETTER GO NOW. IT'S GETTING RATHER LATE.
YES, YOU HAVE A BIG DAY AHEAD TOMORROW. I BELIEVE YOU'RE ASSIGNED TO WARD DUTY. GOOD NIGHT, VERNE.
YOU'D BETTER WATCH YOUR STEP, DR. ADAMS. YOU'RE BEGINNING TO DEVELOP A CONSCIENCE. AND YOU CAN'T AFFORD THAT!
MEANWHILE, AT THE HOSPITAL, I WAS SLIPPING EASLY INTO MY OLD ROUTINE. IN MY WORK, IN THE CLINIC AND THE WARDS, I MADE A POINT OF BEING NOTICED BY DR. KENT...
DID YOU READ POLLARD'S ARTICLE ON ACTH IN THE MEDICAL JOURNAL...I THINK WE MIGHT TRY HIS METHODS ON THAT ARTHRITIS PATIENT IN WARD A.
HM. I THINK YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING THERE, ADAMS.
I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO YOU FOR A MOMENT, DR. ADAMS.
I MADE SURE HE WAS LISTENING WHEN I BEGAN THAT SPIEL ABOUT POLLARD'S ARTICLE.

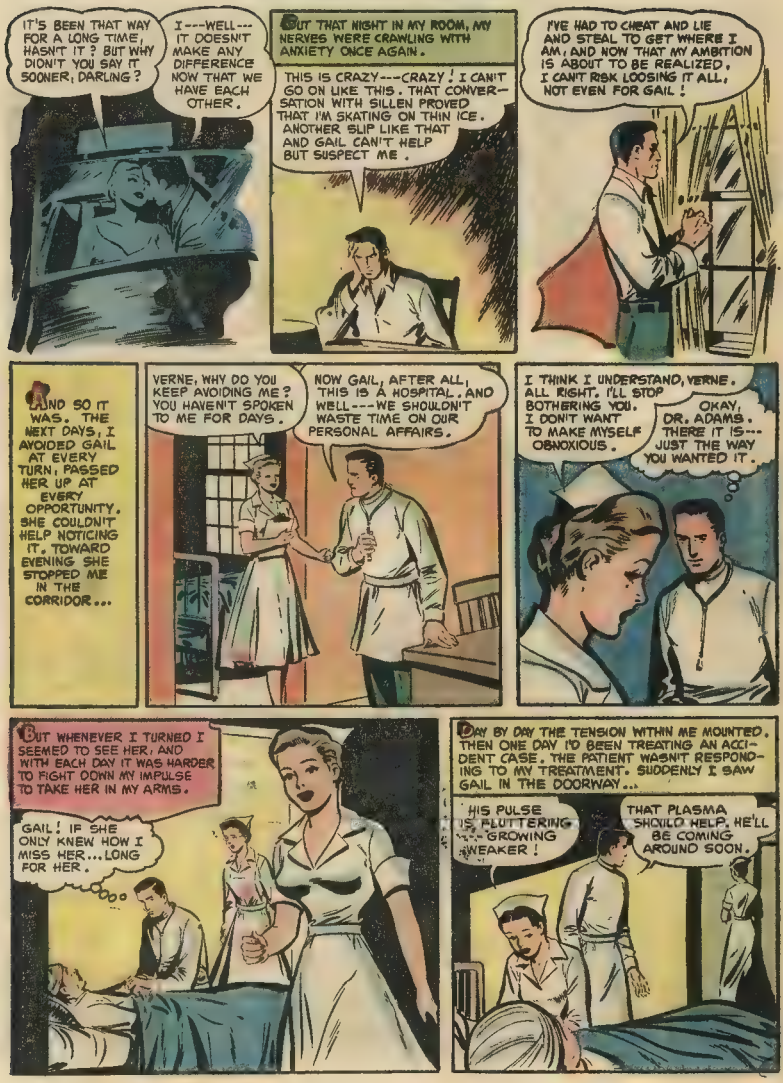
ROMANTIC STORY


I COULDN'T HELP OVERHEARING WHAT YOU SAID TO THAT INTERNE, DOCTOR. I MUST SAY, I APPRECIATE YOUR DEEP INTEREST IN YOUR WORK.
IT'S WHAT I LIVE FOR, DOCTOR KENT!
YES. MY GLIB TONGUE AND MY MASTERY OF MEDICAL TERMS WAS BUILDING A REPUTATION FOR ME BUT THINGS DIDN'T ALWAYS GO THAT SMOOTHLY.
OCCASIONALLY I HAD TO THINK FAST TO STAY OUT OF TROUBLE.
THERE'S AN ACCIDENT CASE IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM. IT LOOKS LIKE A BASAL SKULL FRACTURE.
A SKULL FRACTURE? SOUNDS PRETTY DANGEROUS! I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT.
I THINK YOU'D BETTER CALL DR. KENT, I'M ALL TIED UP IN THE WARDS.
BUT THOUGH I AVOIDED SITUATIONS WHICH COULD IMPERIL MY MASQUERADE, MY HEART KEPT PLAYING AT ITS OWN HAZARDOUS GAME. GAIL AND I WERE DATING REGULARLY.
OH VERNE! VERNE!
GAIL, MY DARLING!
I SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT, GAIL.
WHY NOT? IT WAS WHAT WE BOTH WANTED, WASN'T IT?
WELL, PERHAPS, YOU'RE RIGHT. GOOD NIGHT, VERNE. AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT KISS. YOU HAVEN'T COMMITTED YOURSELF.
GOOD NIGHT, GAIL.
AS I LEFT, I DETECTED A QUIET GLEAM OF AMUSEMENT IN HER EYES.
IT CAME TO ME THEN THAT I WASN'T FOOLING HER. SHE KNEW AS WELL AS I THAT IN SPITE OF MY STRUGGLE AGAINST IT, I WAS FALLING DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH HER.
I CAN'T BLAME HER FOR LAUGHING AT ME. I'M ACTING LIKE AN IMMATURE CHILD.

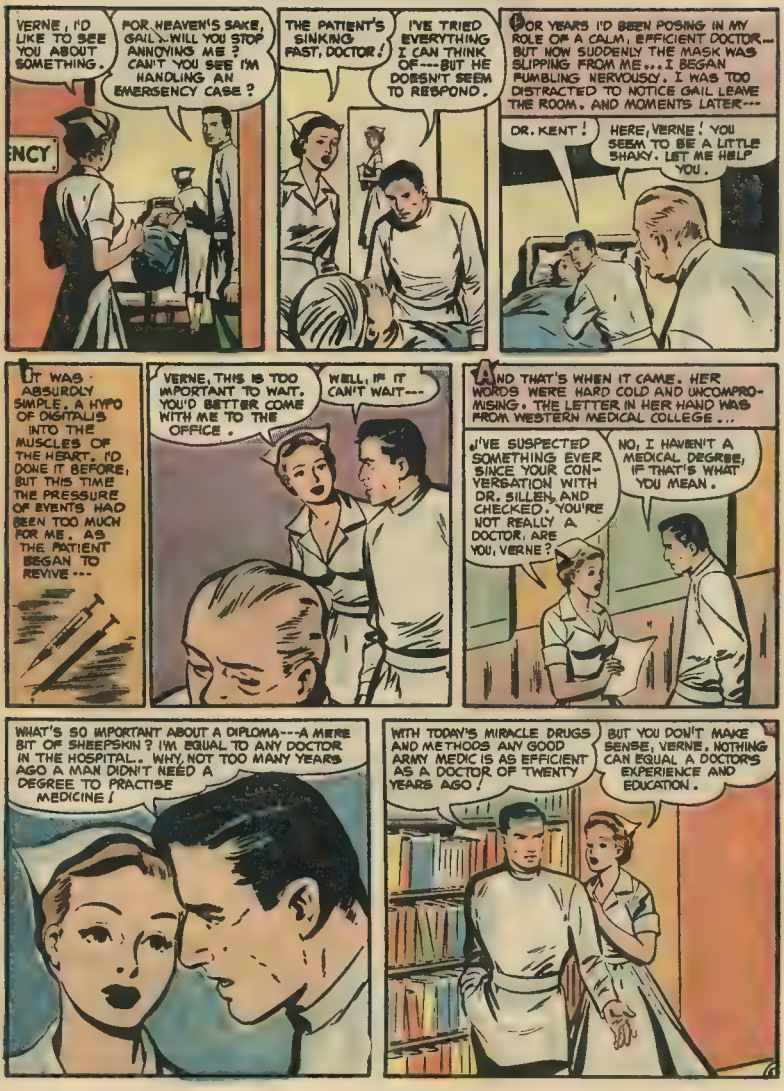
ROMANTIC STORY

THIS IS THE TIME TO GET A REAL START IN MY CAREER. BUT I'M RISKING EVERYTHING BY FALLING IN LOVE LIKE A SILLY SCHOOLBOY.
BUT NOT UNTIL TWO WEEKS LATER, DID I REALIZE THE RISKS I WAS TAKING. ONE NIGHT, WHEN I HAD TAKEN GAIL TO A LOCAL CHARITY DANCE---
VERNE, I KNOW YOU'LL BE GLAD TO MEET DR. SILLEN OF CONCORD CITY. HE'S A GRADUATE OF WESTERN MEDICAL TOO. YOUR ALMA MATER.
DON'T REMEMBER SEEING YOU AT ANY ALUMNAE MEETINGS, DOCTOR. YOU MUST HAVE GRADUATED WITHIN THE LAST FEW YEARS.
I'LL ALWAYS HAVE A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART FOR OLD WESTERN. SAY, REMEMBER OLD POP SCHNEIDER, THE ANATOMY PROFESSOR?
YES. GREAT OLD FELLOW, WASN'T HE? ALMOST LIKE A GODFATHER TO THE STUDENTS.
POP SCHNEIDER? WHY THE CRUSTY OLD DEVIL HATED HIS STUDENTS. HE ALWAYS SAID THEY DIDN'T HAVE BRAINS ENOUGH TO DISSECT A GRASSHOPPER.
I-I MUST HAVE BEEN THINKING OF SOMEONE ELSE.
IT HAD BEEN A CLUMSY SHOT IN THE DARK. THE NEXT FIVE MINUTES WERE A TORMENT OF TENSION AND NERVOUSNESS AS I STUMBLED INTO PITFALL AFTER PITFALL. AT LAST---
BUT YOU'RE ALL WRONG, ADAMS. THE BIOCHEMICAL LAB WAS IN MANOR HALL NOT THE SCIENCE BUILDING.
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT AT THAT, DOCTOR. I THINK YOU'D BETTER EXCUSE ME. I-UH-HAVE A SPLITTING HEADACHE.
GAIL, IF YOU DON'T MIND I'D LIKE TO LEAVE NOW. I'M TOO TIRED TO BE GOOD COMPANY TONIGHT.
OF COURSE, VERNE, I UNDERSTAND. YOU'VE BEEN WORKING HARD LATELY.
PERHAPS IT WAS GRATITUDE, PERHAPS IT WAS MY DEEP LONGING FOR HER THAT SUDDENLY SURGED TO THE SURFACE, BUT AS WE ENTERED MY CAR MY ARMS WENT ABOUT HER IN A FIERCE EMBRACE...
GAIL! I LOVE YOU, GAIL!
DARLING, DARLING! HOW I'VE BEEN LONGING FOR YOU TO SAY THAT!

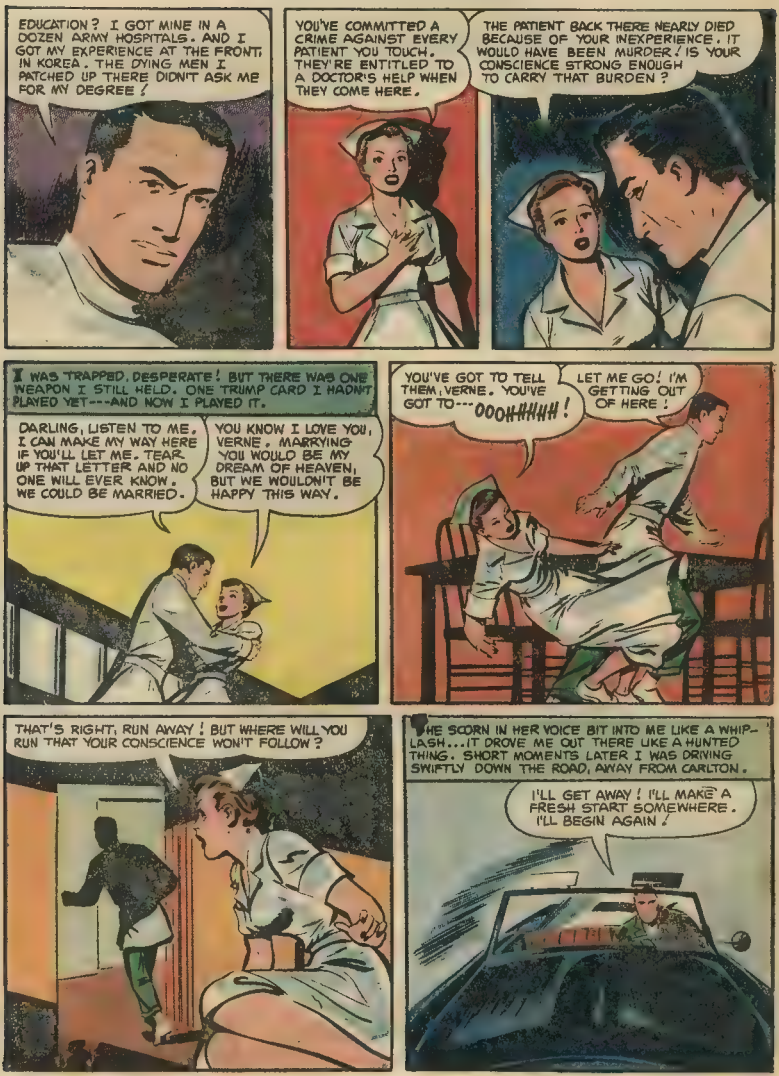
ROMANTIC STORY


IT'S BEEN THAT WAY FOR A LONG TIME, HASN'T IT? BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY IT SOONER, DARLING?
I---WELL--- IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE NOW THAT WE HAVE EACH OTHER.
BUT THAT NIGHT IN MY ROOM, MY NERVES WERE CRAWLING WITH ANXIETY ONCE AGAIN.
THIS IS CRAZY---CRAZY! I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS. THAT CONVERSATION WITH SILLEN PROVED THAT I'M SKATING ON THIN ICE. ANOTHER SLIP LIKE THAT AND GAIL CAN'T HELP BUT SUSPECT ME.
I'VE HAD TO CHEAT AND LIE AND STEAL TO GET WHERE I AM. AND NOW THAT MY AMBITION IS ABOUT TO BE REALIZED, I CAN'T RISK LOOSING IT ALL, NOT EVEN FOR GAIL!
AND SO IT WAS. THE NEXT DAYS, I AVOIDED GAIL AT EVERY TURN; PASSED HER UP AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY. SHE COULDN'T HELP NOTICING IT. TOWARD EVENING SHE STOPPED ME IN THE CORRIDOR...
VERNE, WHY DO YOU KEEP AVOIDING ME? YOU HAVEN'T SPOKEN TO ME FOR DAYS.
NOW GAIL, AFTER ALL, THIS IS A HOSPITAL. AND WELL---WE SHOULDN'T WASTE TIME ON OUR PERSONAL AFFAIRS.
I THINK I UNDERSTAND, VERNE. ALL RIGHT. I'LL STOP BOTHERING YOU. I DON'T WANT TO MAKE MYSELF OBNOXIOUS.
OKAY, DR. ADAMS. THERE IT IS--- JUST THE WAY YOU WANTED IT.
BUT WHENEVER I TURNED I SEEMED TO SEE HER; AND WITH EACH DAY IT WAS HARDER TO FIGHT DOWN MY IMPULSE TO TAKE HER IN MY ARMS.
GAIL! IF SHE ONLY KNEW HOW I MISS HER... LONG FOR HER.
DAY BY DAY THE TENSION WITHIN ME MOUNTED. THEN ONE DAY I'D BEEN TREATING AN ACCIDENT CASE. THE PATIENT WASN'T RESPONDING TO MY TREATMENT. SUDDENLY I SAW GAIL IN THE DOORWAY...
HIS PULSE IS FLUTTERING --- GROWING WEAKER!
THAT PLASMA SHOULD HELP. HE'LL BE COMING AROUND SOON.

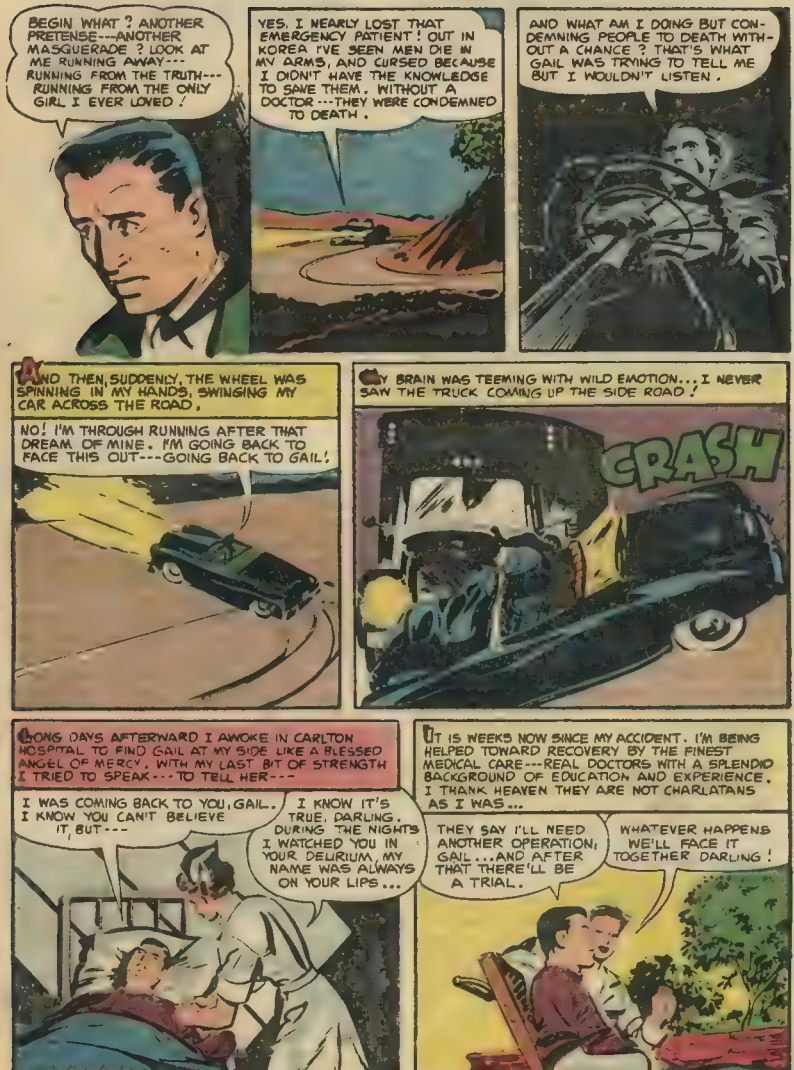
ROMANTIC STORY


VERNE, I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU ABOUT SOMETHING.
FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, GAIL, WILL YOU STOP ANNOYING ME? CAN'T YOU SEE I'M HANDLING AN EMERGENCY CASE?
ENCY
THE PATIENT'S SINKING FAST, DOCTOR!
I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING I CAN THINK OF---BUT HE DOESN'T SEEM TO RESPOND.
FOR YEARS I'D BEEN POSING IN MY ROLE OF A CALM, EFFICIENT DOCTOR... BUT NOW SUDDENLY THE MASK WAS SLIPPING FROM ME... I BEGAN FUMBLING NERVOUSLY. I WAS TOO DISTRACTED TO NOTICE GAIL LEAVE THE ROOM. AND MOMENTS LATER---
DR. KENT!
HERE, VERNE! YOU SEEM TO BE A LITTLE SHAKY. LET ME HELP YOU.
IT WAS ABSURDLY SIMPLE. A HYPO OF DIGITALIS INTO THE MUSCLES OF THE HEART. I'D DONE IT BEFORE; BUT THIS TIME THE PRESSURE OF EVENTS HAD BEEN TOO MUCH FOR ME. AS THE PATIENT BEGAN TO REVIVE---
VERNE, THIS IS TOO IMPORTANT TO WAIT. YOU'D BETTER COME WITH ME TO THE OFFICE.
WELL, IF IT CAN'T WAIT---
AND THAT'S WHEN IT CAME. HER WORDS WERE HARD COLD AND UNCOMPROMISING. THE LETTER IN HER HAND WAS FROM WESTERN MEDICAL COLLEGE...
I'VE SUSPECTED SOMETHING EVER SINCE YOUR CONVERSATION WITH DR. SILLEN, AND CHECKED. YOU'RE NOT REALLY A DOCTOR, ARE YOU, VERNE?
NO, I HAVEN'T A MEDICAL DEGREE, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN.
WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT ABOUT A DIPLOMA---A MERE BIT OF SHEEPSKIN? I'M EQUAL TO ANY DOCTOR IN THE HOSPITAL.. WHY, NOT TOO MANY YEARS AGO A MAN DIDN'T NEED A DEGREE TO PRACTISE MEDICINE!
WITH TODAY'S MIRACLE DRUGS AND METHODS ANY GOOD ARMY MEDIC IS AS EFFICIENT AS A DOCTOR OF TWENTY YEARS AGO!
BUT YOU DON'T MAKE SENSE, VERNE. NOTHING CAN EQUAL A DOCTOR'S EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION.

ROMANTIC STORY


EDUCATION? I GOT MINE IN A DOZEN ARMY HOSPITALS. AND I GOT MY EXPERIENCE AT THE FRONT, IN KOREA. THE DYING MEN I PATCHED UP THERE DIDN'T ASK ME FOR MY DEGREE!
YOU'VE COMMITTED A CRIME AGAINST EVERY PATIENT YOU TOUCH. THEY'RE ENTITLED TO A DOCTOR'S HELP WHEN THEY COME HERE.
THE PATIENT BACK THERE NEARLY DIED BECAUSE OF YOUR INEXPERIENCE. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MURDER! IS YOUR CONSCIENCE STRONG ENOUGH TO CARRY THAT BURDEN?
I WAS TRAPPED, DESPERATE! BUT THERE WAS ONE WEAPON I STILL HELD. ONE TRUMP CARD I HADN'T PLAYED YET---AND NOW I PLAYED IT.
DARLING, LISTEN TO ME. I CAN MAKE MY WAY HERE IF YOU'LL LET ME. TEAR UP THAT LETTER AND NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW WE COULD BE MARRIED.
YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU, VERNE. MARRYING YOU WOULD BE MY DREAM OF HEAVEN, BUT WE WOULDN'T BE HAPPY THIS WAY.
YOU'VE GOT TO TELL THEM, VERNE. YOU'VE GOT TO---OOOHHHHH!
LET ME GO! I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!
THAT'S RIGHT, RUN AWAY! BUT WHERE WILL YOU RUN THAT YOUR CONSCIENCE WON'T FOLLOW?
THE SCORN IN HER VOICE BIT INTO ME LIKE A WHIP-LASH...IT DROVE ME OUT THERE LIKE A HUNTED THING. SHORT MOMENTS LATER I WAS DRIVING SWIFTLY DOWN THE ROAD, AWAY FROM CARLTON.
I'LL GET AWAY! I'LL MAKE A FRESH START SOMEWHERE. I'LL BEGIN AGAIN!

ROMANTIC STORY


BEGIN WHAT ? ANOTHER PRETENSE---ANOTHER MASQUERADE ? LOOK AT ME RUNNING AWAY--- RUNNING FROM THE TRUTH--- RUNNING FROM THE ONLY GIRL I EVER LOVED !
YES, I NEARLY LOST THAT EMERGENCY PATIENT ! OUT IN KOREA I'VE SEEN MEN DIE IN MY ARMS, AND CURSED BECAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE TO SAVE THEM. WITHOUT A DOCTOR---THEY WERE CONDEMNED TO DEATH.
AND WHAT AM I DOING BUT CONDEMNING PEOPLE TO DEATH WITHOUT A CHANCE ? THAT'S WHAT GAIL WAS TRYING TO TELL ME BUT I WOULDN'T LISTEN.
AND THEN, SUDDENLY, THE WHEEL WAS SPINNING IN MY HANDS, SWINGING MY CAR ACROSS THE ROAD,
NO! I'M THROUGH RUNNING AFTER THAT DREAM OF MINE. I'M GOING BACK TO FACE THIS OUT---GOING BACK TO GAIL!
MY BRAIN WAS TEEMING WITH WILD EMOTION... I NEVER SAW THE TRUCK COMING UP THE SIDE ROAD !
CRASH
LONG DAYS AFTERWARD I AWOKE IN CARLTON HOSPITAL TO FIND GAIL AT MY SIDE LIKE A BLESSED ANGEL OF MERCY. WITH MY LAST BIT OF STRENGTH I TRIED TO SPEAK--- TO TELL HER---
I WAS COMING BACK TO YOU, GAIL. I KNOW YOU CAN'T BELIEVE IT, BUT---
I KNOW IT'S TRUE, DARLING. DURING THE NIGHTS I WATCHED YOU IN YOUR DELIRIUM, MY NAME WAS ALWAYS ON YOUR LIPS...
IT IS WEEKS NOW SINCE MY ACCIDENT. I'M BEING HELPED TOWARD RECOVERY BY THE FINEST MEDICAL CARE---REAL DOCTORS WITH A SPLENDID BACKGROUND OF EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE. I THANK HEAVEN THEY ARE NOT CHARLATANS AS I WAS...
THEY SAY I'LL NEED ANOTHER OPERATION, GAIL...AND AFTER THAT THERE'LL BE A TRIAL.
WHATEVER HAPPENS WE'LL FACE IT TOGETHER DARLING !

EMPTY ARMS

THE stage director jumped up from his chair in the wings. "You got it, kids. That'll be all for today's rehearsal. Keep that atmosphere of emotional tension when we open next week and we'll have Broadway in our hip pockets."

Slowly, reluctantly, Marylin Dee straightened and let her arms drop to her sides. She was trembling and it seemed that the violent pounding of her heart must betray her to all the cast. At the first words of the director, Ralph Edson had released his embrace. One moment his arms were around her, enclosing her slim figure. The next moment he had stepped back, his face expressionless. There was no more emotion in his eyes than there had been in his embrace. It was theatre and nothing more. The script read: *He takes her in his arms.* When the script said to let go, Ralph let go with no regret.

Marylin Dee choked back a sob that caught in her throat. As far as Ralph Edson was concerned, she was merely a feminine lead to be wooed in front of the footlights and forgotten completely in the wings. All her slim loveliness, her dark and arresting beauty was no more to Ralph than a well-designed bit of scenery.

"Oh, Ralph," Marylin's aching heart whispered, "why can't you see me as a real person just once? Why can't your arms tighten when they hold me, or your lips come alive for that last stage kiss? But you even avoid looking into my eyes when we stand together, as if you even disliked the necessity."

The director was facing them. "We'll have a complete run-through tomorrow night. We'll start early and quit early. Wear any old thing you want to for this rehearsal."

Ralph gave a stiff nod. "Good night, Marylin. Good night, all." He went on out through the stage door, his manner almost that of a man hurrying away from something distasteful.

Undressing for bed that night, Marylin stared at herself in the mirror. What was wrong with her? Why did Ralph seem to dislike her? Had she given away her secret adoration in some manner that frightened him? It was known that Ralph Edson was shy around girls. His name had never been linked with that of any feminine lead, yet normally he bantered with the cast and was popular with everyone. It was only since Marylin won the leading part in his new comedy romance that he had seemed to change, to tighten up, to withdraw into some secret shell of reserve.

She threw herself across the bed, letting the tears come. "Oh, Ralph, I'm so crazy in love with you that it hurts all the time. Why can't you at least act as if I'm alive?"

She sat up suddenly. "The director said to wear any old thing for tomorrow night's run-through. I'll pretend I'm on my way to a party somewhere and wear that new strapless evening gown. If he won't at least look at me then, or show some emotion when he takes me in his arms there on the stage, I'll know it's hopeless."

Marylin spent hours before her mirror the next afternoon. When at last she came through the door of her apartment house, a man going by whistled shrill appreciation and two cabs raced to be first at her signal. The staid doorman fell over himself to help her into the winning cab and stood holding his cap after they had pulled away. A sense of triumph flooded her. Tonight she would force Ralph Edson to notice her if she had to faint in his arms.

•

AS she came through the stage door, a chorus of whistles went up from the assembled cast. Danny Layton, the second lead, fanned himself. "Somebody call the fire department. She's going to have this place in flames any minute, wearing that outfit."

Ralph turned from talking to the director. For a moment his eyes went wide and she thought at first he was going to rush to her side. Then, his face suddenly pale, he turned quickly away. He spoke to the director a moment and then reached for his hat. "I'm sorry, everybody, but — but I'm not feeling well tonight. You'll have to carry on as best you can without me. I'll be all right for dress rehearsal tomorrow. Sorry!" And before Marylin's shocked, horrified gaze he fairly bolted out the stage door into the darkness.

The cast stared. Sylvia Day said, "What got into him? He was gay as a lark five minutes ago?"

Heartsick and bitter, Marylin ran through her lines dully as they finished a half-hearted practise. She was leaving, her shoulders sagging, her eyes misted, when the anger began to grow in her. Suddenly she straightened. "He can't go on doing this to me. I'm going to get to the bottom of this right now."

She caught a cab and gave the number of Ralph's apartment hotel. All the way through the early evening crowds and traffic, she sat in the edge of the seat, her fists clenched, her face grim. This would be a showdown. If she was that distasteful, then it was time to retire from the cast and let someone else take over. There would be other leads open. But first she would face Ralph Edson and force him to explain his crazy actions.

A DAZZLED desk clerk let her sail past without demanding that she first send up her name. A moment later Marylin stepped from the elevator and pushed the buzzer beside Ralph's door. Now her first flood of anger was evaporating and she found herself trembling at the very thought of facing Ralph. Then her own dark despair rose to lend her strength.

The door opened and Ralph stared at her dazedly. His face was haggard, his hair mussed as if he had plowed nervous fingers through it in moments of stress. Color flooded his face and then drained out, leaving him pale. "Y-you," he stammered. "I—I can't talk to you now. Please go away. See me tomorrow . . ."

"No," Marylin said sharply and took a determined step forward. Automatically, Ralph stepped back and she pushed the door out of his limp hands and stepped through. "There's something wrong about us and I think I'm entitled to know what it is, Ralph Edson. Why do you act as if just the sight of me was poison? If you can't bear me, even on the stage, then it's time I got out. But I think I've given enough of myself to the play to deserve at least an explanation. Why do you dislike me so intensely?"

"Dislike you?" Ralph whispered. "Oh, good Lord, Marylin—if you only knew the truth."

"I'm going to know it," Marylin said flatly. "I want to know all of it now—tonight—before I leave here. What have I said or done to upset you so that you run away the moment I appear?"

He wet his lips. Staring at him, Marylin felt herself shaken by the same desperate hunger for his arms, the same yearning to feel the pressure of his lips on hers. She thought wildly, they call the theatre a world of make-believe, but they have no idea how make-believe it can be. For three months Ralph has held me in his arms each night; for three months he has kissed me at the climax of each rehearsal. Yet never once in all that time have I felt his arms or known the sweet fire of his lips.

"Marylin," Ralph groaned. "Please stop this. You don't understand at all. Of course you've upset me. You upset me by being anywhere near me, by looking so lovely and desirable. You drive me half mad night after night when you step into my arms and raise your lips and I know it's only pretense, only part of a script some fool with a typewriter dreamed up to torment mortal flesh."

"Ralph," she cried. "What are you trying to say?"

The room was spinning, the pound of blood suffocating in her throat.

"It isn't what I'm trying to say," Ralph cried. "It's what I've been trying not to say. I'm in love with you, Marylin. I'm so wildly, madly in love with you that I can't go on looking at you and reciting love-talk and taking you into my arms when it's all a mockery and a sham."

She wanted to laugh and she wanted to cry and she did a little of both, standing there in the foyer of the apartment with her empty arms half-lifted. "Why didn't you say so?" she sobbed. "Why didn't you let me know? Couldn't you see that I was suffering the same torments night after night? I've done everything but hit you over the head to make you see my love."

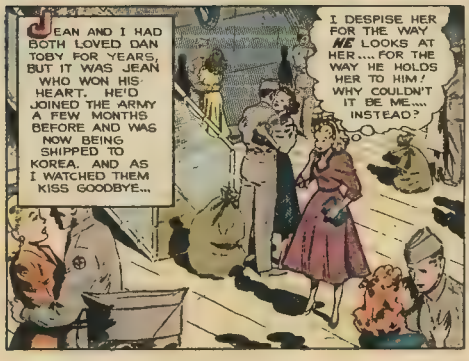
"You mean . . . ?" Then he took a step and his arms were around her, tight and fiercely possessive. "Oh, my darling, how could I know? You're the most beautiful, the most desirable creature in all the world. What right had I to think you wouldn't laugh at me? You, who could have the world at your feet . . ."

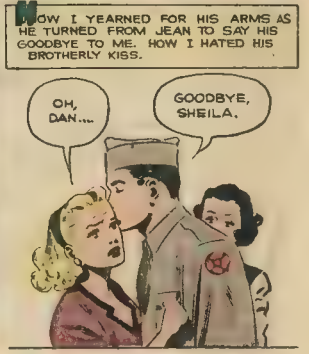
"My dearest one," Marylin whispered and her hand went up to smooth the rumpled hair, to press him closer. "You're all the world to me, but I don't want you at my feet. I want you here in my arms—always."

THEN their lips met, and there was no sham, no pretense, no theatrical make-believe in the fire that blazed up to weld lips and hearts together into one, forever indivisible, forever warm.

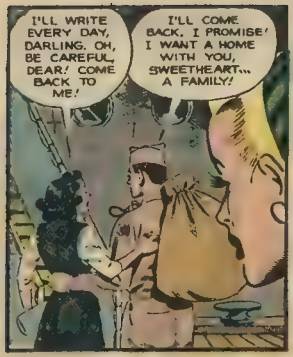
THE END

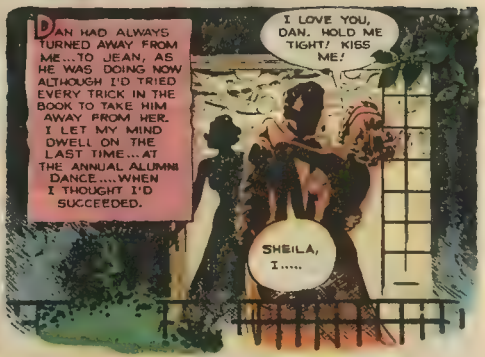
LETTER TO A SOLDIER
Would the biggest lie of them all give her one more chance to win Dan's heart? Would it prevent her from facing the future alone and afraid? Sheila pondered the deepest dilemma of her life!
CAN YOU DENY YOU WROTE THIS LETTER? GO AHEAD, SHEILA...LIE! TELL ME YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT!
DAN, I...

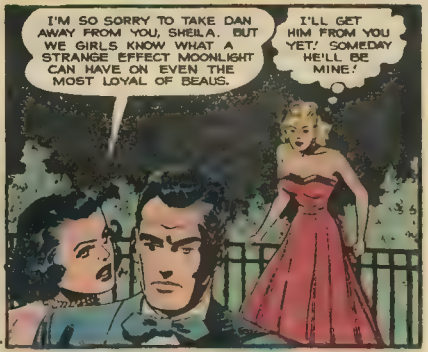

JEAN AND I HAD BOTH LOVED DAN TOBY FOR YEARS, BUT IT WAS JEAN WHO WON HIS HEART. HE'D JOINED THE ARMY A FEW MONTHS BEFORE AND WAS NOW BEING SHIPPED TO KOREA. AND AS I WATCHED THEM KISS GOODBYE...
I DESPISE HER FOR THE WAY ME LOOKS AT HER.... FOR THE WAY HE HOLDS HER TO HIM! WHY COULDN'T IT BE ME.... INSTEAD?

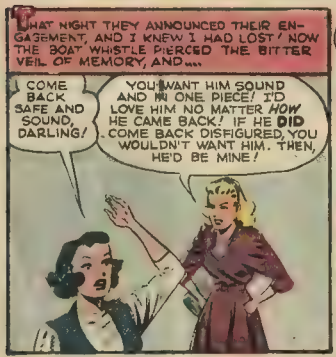

HOW I YEARNED FOR HIS ARMS AS HE TURNED FROM JEAN TO SAY HIS GOODBYE TO ME. HOW I HATED HIS BROTHERLY KISS.
OH, DAN....
GOODBYE, SHEILA.

ROMANTIC STORY

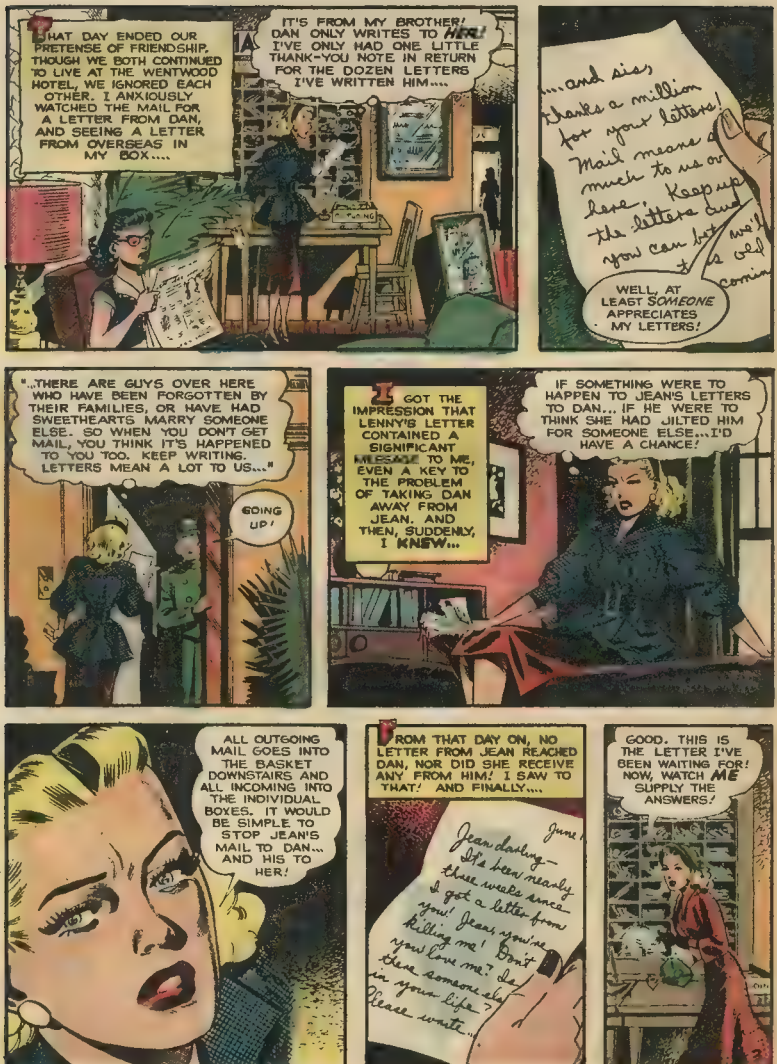

I'LL WRITE EVERY DAY, DARLING. OH, BE CAREFUL, DEAR! COME BACK TO ME!
I'LL COME BACK. I PROMISE! I WANT A HOME WITH YOU, SWEETHEART... A FAMILY!


DAN HAD ALWAYS TURNED AWAY FROM ME...TO JEAN, AS HE WAS DOING NOW ALTHOUGH I'D TRIED EVERY TRICK IN THE BOOK TO TAKE HIM AWAY FROM HER. I LET MY MIND DWELL ON THE LAST TIME...AT THE ANNUAL ALUMNI DANCE....WHEN I THOUGHT I'D SUCCEEDED.
I LOVE YOU, DAN. HOLD ME TIGHT! KISS ME!
SHEILA, I.....

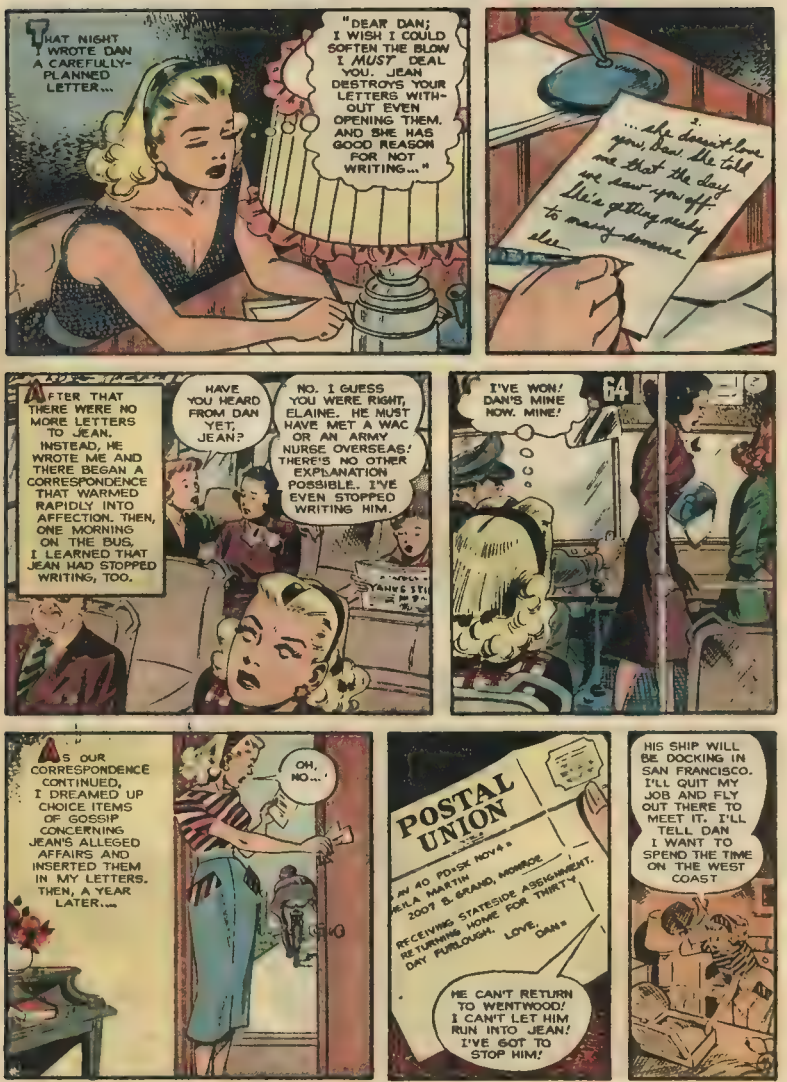

I'M SO SORRY TO TAKE DAN AWAY FROM YOU, SHEILA. BUT WE GIRLS KNOW WHAT A STRANGE EFFECT MOONLIGHT CAN HAVE ON EVEN THE MOST LOYAL OF BEAUS.
I'LL GET HIM FROM YOU YET! SOMEDAY HE'LL BE MINE!


THAT NIGHT THEY ANNOUNCED THEIR ENGAGEMENT, AND I KNEW I HAD LOST! NOW THE BOAT WHISTLE PIERCED THE BITTER VEIL OF MEMORY, AND....
I COME BACK SAFE AND SOUND, DARLING!
YOU WANT HIM SOUND AND IN ONE PIECE! I'D LOVE HIM NO MATTER *HOW* HE CAME BACK! IF HE **DID** COME BACK DISFIGURED, YOU WOULDN'T WANT HIM. THEN, HE'D BE MINE!

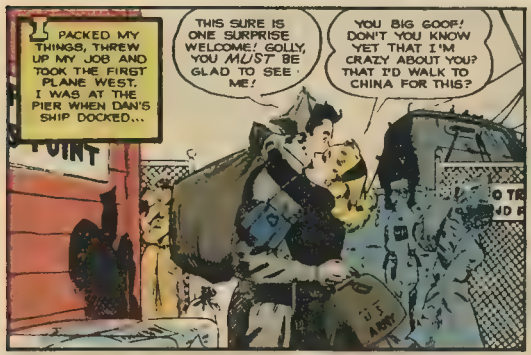
ROMANTIC STORY


THAT DAY ENDED OUR PRETENSE OF FRIENDSHIP. THOUGH WE BOTH CONTINUED TO LIVE AT THE WENTWOOD HOTEL, WE IGNORED EACH OTHER. I ANXIOUSLY WATCHED THE MAIL FOR A LETTER FROM DAN, AND SEEING A LETTER FROM OVERSEAS IN MY BOX....
IT'S FROM MY BROTHER! DAN ONLY WRITES TO HIRU! I'VE ONLY HAD ONE LITTLE THANK-YOU NOTE IN RETURN FOR THE DOZEN LETTERS I'VE WRITTEN HIM....
...and sis, thanks a million for your letters! Mail means so much to us over here. Keep up the letters but you can't write! It's getting cold comin
WELL, AT LEAST SOMEONE APPRECIATES MY LETTERS!
"...THERE ARE GUYS OVER HERE WHO HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN BY THEIR FAMILIES, OR HAVE HAD SWEETHEARTS MARRY SOMEONE ELSE. SO WHEN YOU DON'T GET MAIL, YOU THINK IT'S HAPPENED TO YOU TOO. KEEP WRITING. LETTERS MEAN A LOT TO US..."
GOING UP!
I GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT LENNY'S LETTER CONTAINED A SIGNIFICANT MESSAGE TO ME, EVEN A KEY TO THE PROBLEM OF TAKING DAN AWAY FROM JEAN. AND THEN, SUDDENLY, I KNEW...
IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO JEAN'S LETTERS TO DAN... IF HE WERE TO THINK SHE HAD JILTED HIM FOR SOMEONE ELSE...I'D HAVE A CHANCE!
ALL OUTGOING MAIL GOES INTO THE BASKET DOWNSTAIRS AND ALL INCOMING INTO THE INDIVIDUAL BOXES. IT WOULD BE SIMPLE TO STOP JEAN'S MAIL TO DAN... AND HIS TO HER!
FROM THAT DAY ON, NO LETTER FROM JEAN REACHED DAN, NOR DID SHE RECEIVE ANY FROM HIM! I SAW TO THAT! AND FINALLY....
June 1
Jean darling— It's been nearly three weeks since I got a letter from you! Jean, you're killing me! Don't you love me? Is there someone else in your life? Please write...
GOOD. THIS IS THE LETTER I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! NOW, WATCH ME SUPPLY THE ANSWERS!

ROMANTIC STORY

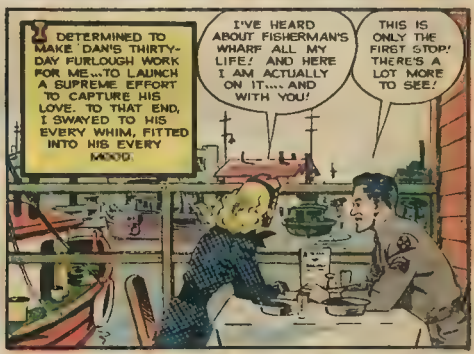

THAT NIGHT I WROTE DAN A CAREFULLY-PLANNED LETTER...
"DEAR DAN; I WISH I COULD SOFTEN THE BLOW I MUST DEAL YOU. JEAN DESTROYS YOUR LETTERS WITHOUT EVEN OPENING THEM, AND SHE HAS GOOD REASON FOR NOT WRITING..."
...she doesn't love you, Dan. She told me that the day we saw you off. She's getting ready to marry someone else.
AFTER THAT THERE WERE NO MORE LETTERS TO JEAN. INSTEAD, HE WROTE ME AND THERE BEGAN A CORRESPONDENCE THAT WARMED RAPIDLY INTO AFFECTION. THEN, ONE MORNING ON THE BUS, I LEARNED THAT JEAN HAD STOPPED WRITING, TOO.
HAVE YOU HEARD FROM DAN YET, JEAN?
NO. I GUESS YOU WERE RIGHT, ELAINE. HE MUST HAVE MET A WAC OR AN ARMY NURSE OVERSEAS! THERE'S NO OTHER EXPLANATION POSSIBLE.. I'VE EVEN STOPPED WRITING HIM.
I'VE WON! DAN'S MINE NOW. MINE!
AS OUR CORRESPONDENCE CONTINUED, I DREAMED UP CHOICE ITEMS OF GOSSIP CONCERNING JEAN'S ALLEGED AFFAIRS AND INSERTED THEM IN MY LETTERS. THEN, A YEAR LATER....
OH, NO...!
POSTAL UNION
AN AD POSH NOVA
NEILA MARTIN MONROE
2007 B. GRAND, MONROE
RECEIVING STATESIDE ASSIGNMENT. RETURNING HOME FOR THIRTY DAY FURLOUGH. LOVE, DAN
ME CAN'T RETURN TO WENTWOOD! I CAN'T LET HIM RUN INTO JEAN! I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM!
HIS SHIP WILL BE DOCKING IN SAN FRANCISCO. I'LL QUIT MY JOB AND FLY OUT THERE TO MEET IT. I'LL TELL DAN I WANT TO SPEND THE TIME ON THE WEST COAST

ROMANTIC STORY


I PACKED MY THINGS, THREW UP MY JOB AND TOOK THE FIRST PLANE WEST. I WAS AT THE PIER WHEN DAN'S SHIP DOCKED...
THIS SURE IS ONE SURPRISE WELCOME! GOLLY, YOU MUST BE GLAD TO SEE ME!
YOU BIG GOOF! DON'T YOU KNOW YET THAT I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU? THAT I'D WALK TO CHINA FOR THIS?

THIS LAST YEAR HAS SHOWN ME WHO MY FRIENDS ARE AND CONVINCED ME HOW FINE AND LOYAL YOU ARE! I HOPE I CAN PROVE WORTHY OF YOUR FEELINGS, SHEILA.

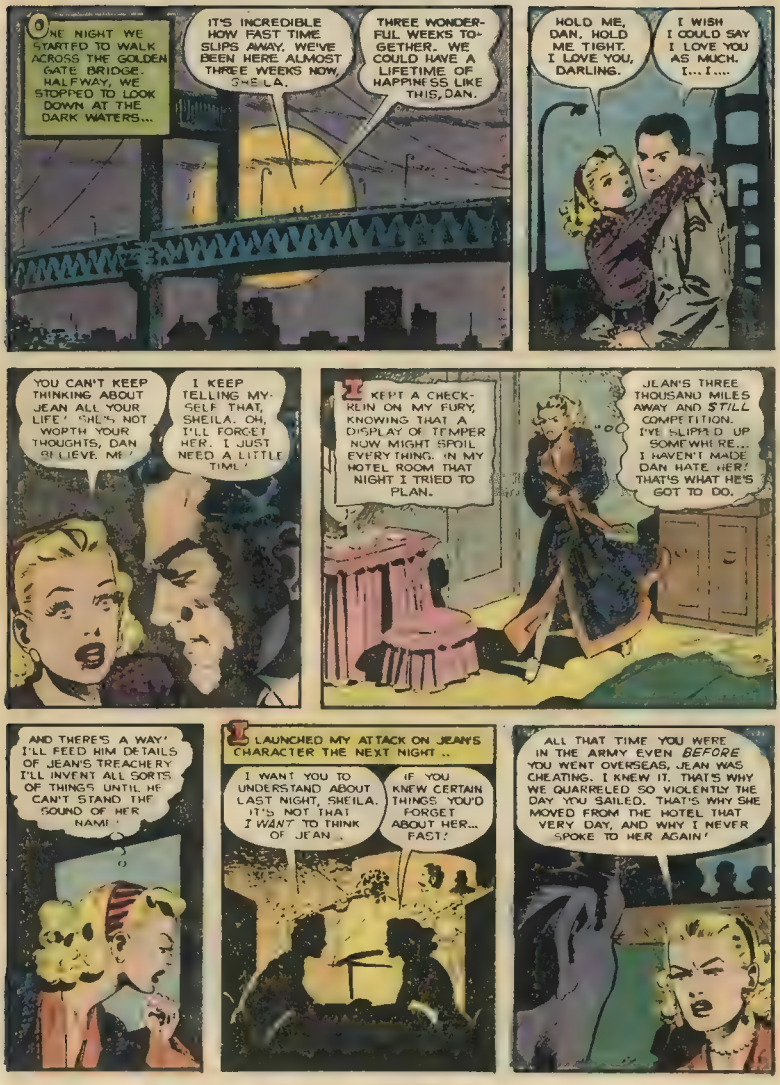
YOU STILL THINK ABOUT JEAN!
SHE KINDA WORKED HERSELF UNDER MY SKIN. I'LL DIG ALL TRACES OF HER OUT THOUGH, SHEILA, I PROMISE. AND WHEN THAT'S DONE...YOU AND I CAN START OUT WITH A CLEAN SLATE.


DETERMINED TO MAKE DAN'S THIRTY-DAY FURLOUGH WORK FOR ME...TO LAUNCH A SUPREME EFFORT TO CAPTURE HIS LOVE. TO THAT END, I SWAYED TO HIS EVERY WHIM, FITTED INTO HIS EVERY MOOD.
I'VE HEARD ABOUT FISHERMAN'S WHARF ALL MY LIFE! AND HERE I AM ACTUALLY ON IT... AND WITH YOU!
THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST STOP! THERE'S A LOT MORE TO SEE!

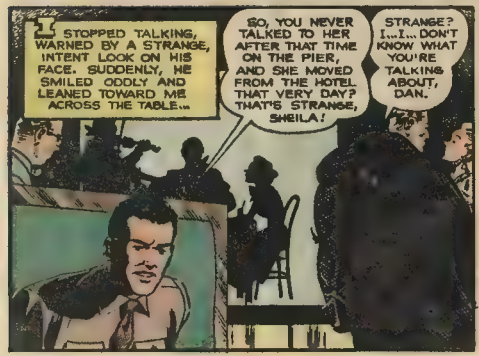
CHINATOWN...
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE FRIGHTENED! THEY DON'T HAVE TONG WARS IN THE STREETS ANY MORE.
IT'S JUST AN EXCUSE TO STAY CLOSE TO YOU. DON'T SPOIL IT, DAN.
CHOP SUE

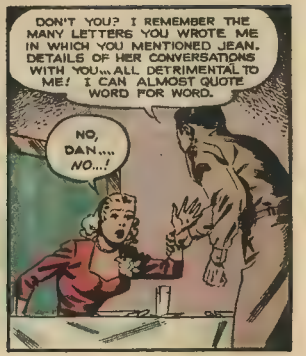
AND TELEGRAPH HILL...
IT WAS BUILT BY ONE OF THE BIG GOLD-MINING MAGNATES IN THE OLD DAYS. CAN'T YOU JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES AND IMAGINE YOURSELF AS IT'S MISTRESS.
OH, YES... BUT WITH YOU AS MASTER I'D BE SATISFIED WITH EVEN A FURNISHED ROOM.

ROMANTIC STORY

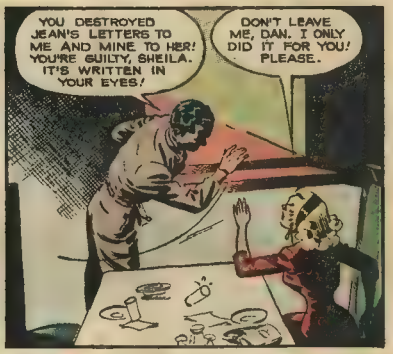

ONE NIGHT WE STARTED TO WALK ACROSS THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE. HALFWAY, WE STOPPED TO LOOK DOWN AT THE DARK WATERS...
IT'S INCREDIBLE HOW FAST TIME SLIPS AWAY. WE'VE BEEN HERE ALMOST THREE WEEKS NOW, SHEILA.
THREE WONDERFUL WEEKS TOGETHER. WE COULD HAVE A LIFETIME OF HAPPINESS LIKE THIS, DAN.
HOLD ME, DAN. HOLD ME TIGHT. I LOVE YOU, DARLING.
I WISH I COULD SAY I LOVE YOU AS MUCH. I... I....
YOU CAN'T KEEP THINKING ABOUT JEAN ALL YOUR LIFE! SHE'S NOT WORTH YOUR THOUGHTS, DAN BELIEVE ME!
I KEEP TELLING MYSELF THAT, SHEILA. OH, I'LL FORGET HER. I JUST NEED A LITTLE TIME!
I KEPT A CHECK-REIN ON MY FURY, KNOWING THAT A DISPLAY OF TEMPER NOW MIGHT SPOIL EVERYTHING. IN MY HOTEL ROOM THAT NIGHT I TRIED TO PLAN.
JEAN'S THREE THOUSAND MILES AWAY AND STILL COMPETITION. I'VE SLIPPED UP SOMEWHERE. I HAVEN'T MADE DAN HATE HER! THAT'S WHAT HE'S GOT TO DO.
AND THERE'S A WAY! I'LL FEED HIM DETAILS OF JEAN'S TREACHERY I'LL INVENT ALL SORTS OF THINGS UNTIL HE CAN'T STAND THE SOUND OF HER NAME!
I LAUNCHED MY ATTACK ON JEAN'S CHARACTER THE NEXT NIGHT ..
I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND ABOUT LAST NIGHT, SHEILA. IT'S NOT THAT I WANT TO THINK OF JEAN ..
IF YOU KNEW CERTAIN THINGS YOU'D FORGET ABOUT HER... FAST!
ALL THAT TIME YOU WERE IN THE ARMY EVEN BEFORE YOU WENT OVERSEAS, JEAN WAS CHEATING. I KNEW IT. THAT'S WHY WE QUARRELED SO VIOLENTLY THE DAY YOU SAILED. THAT'S WHY SHE MOVED FROM THE HOTEL THAT VERY DAY, AND WHY I NEVER SPOKE TO HER AGAIN!

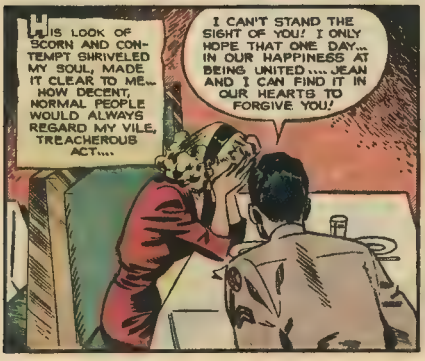
ROMANTIC STORY

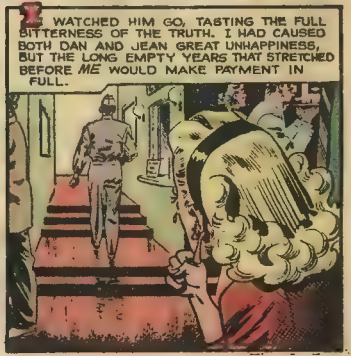

I STOPPED TALKING, WARNED BY A STRANGE, INTENT LOOK ON HIS FACE. SUDDENLY, HE SMILED ODDLY AND LEANED TOWARD ME ACROSS THE TABLE...
SO, YOU NEVER TALKED TO HER AFTER THAT TIME ON THE PIER, AND SHE MOVED FROM THE HOTEL THAT VERY DAY? THAT'S STRANGE, SHEILA!
STRANGE? I...I... DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, DAN.


DON'T YOU? I REMEMBER THE MANY LETTERS YOU WROTE ME IN WHICH YOU MENTIONED JEAN. DETAILS OF HER CONVERSATIONS WITH YOU...ALL DETRIMENTAL TO ME! I CAN ALMOST QUOTE WORD FOR WORD.
NO, DAN.... NO...!

IF YOU DIDN'T TALK TO JEAN, IF YOU DIDN'T SEE JEAN...HOW, SHEILA...DID YOU KNOW SHE WASN'T WRITING ME? HOW DID YOU KNOW SHE WAS CHEATING ON ME? HOW, SHEILA? HOW?
BUT I...I...


YOU DESTROYED JEAN'S LETTERS TO ME AND MINE TO HER! YOU'RE GUILTY, SHEILA. IT'S WRITTEN IN YOUR EYES!
DON'T LEAVE ME, DAN. I ONLY DID IT FOR YOU! PLEASE.


HIS LOOK OF SCORN AND CONTEMPT SHRIVELED MY SOUL, MADE IT CLEAR TO ME... HOW DECENT, NORMAL PEOPLE WOULD ALWAYS REGARD MY VILE, TREACHEROUS ACT....
I CAN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF YOU! I ONLY HOPE THAT ONE DAY... IN OUR HAPPINESS AT BEING UNITED.... JEAN AND I CAN FIND IT IN OUR HEARTS TO FORGIVE YOU!


I WATCHED HIM GO, TASTING THE FULL BITTERNESS OF THE TRUTH. I HAD CAUSED BOTH DAN AND JEAN GREAT UNHAPPINESS, BUT THE LONG EMPTY YEARS THAT STRETCHED BEFORE ME WOULD MAKE PAYMENT IN FULL.

BARBARA HALE

"DREAM GIRL of the MONTH"

BROWN-HAIRED, HAZEL-EYED BARBARA HALE WAS BORN IN DE KALB, ILLINOIS, AND STUDIED TAP AND BALLET DANCING FROM THE AGE OF 12 ON!

WHILE SHE DABBLED IN ACTING WITH A LITTLE THEATRE GROUP IN ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS, BARBARA NEVER HAD ANY DESIRE TO MAKE THE DRAMA HER LIFE WORK! A TALENTED ARTIST, SHE PLANNED TO BECOME A PAINTER!

QUEEN

DURING HER SENIOR YEAR AT ROCKFORD HIGH SCHOOL SHE WAS QUEEN OF THE MAY! SHE ALSO WON A NUMBER OF OTHER BEAUTY AND POPULARITY CONTESTS IN HER HOME TOWN!

UPON GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL, SHE ENTERED THE CHICAGO ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS, WHERE SHE STUDIED COMMERCIAL ART AND DID MODELING IN HER SPARE TIME!

UNKNOWN TO BARBARA, ONE OF THE EXECUTIVES AT THE CHICAGO MODELS' BUREAU SENT HER PICTURE TO A HOLLYWOOD MOVIE STUDIO EXECUTIVE! A FEW WEEKS LATER, A TALENT SCOUT STOPPED OFF IN CHICAGO EXPRESSLY TO SEE HER, AND A SHORT TIME LATER BARBARA SIGNED A LONG-TERM CONTRACT WITH AN RKO STUDIO IN HOLLYWOOD!

THERE IS SMALL CHANCE THAT BARBARA WILL EVER TAKE UP A CAREER AS A COMMERCIAL ARTIST NOW, BUT SHE IS CONTINUING HER INTEREST IN ART, SPECIALIZING IN ILLUSTRATION, AND PORTRAITURE!

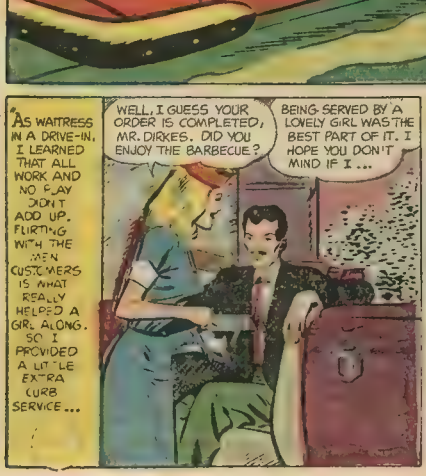
SHE IS VERY FOND OF CHILDREN AND HOPES SOME DAY THAT SHE WILL HAVE THE TIME AND FINANCIAL MEANS TO ENGAGE EXTENSIVELY IN CHILD WELFARE WORK!

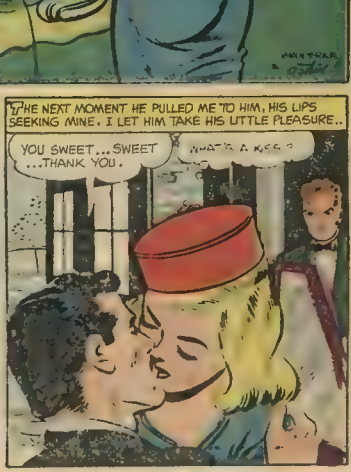
BARBARA IS MARRIED AND HAS TWO CHILDREN, A DAUGHTER, BARBARA WILLA JOHANNA, AND A SON, WILLIAM THEODORE!

"I CONSIDERED THEM HARMLESS FLIRTATIONS THAT PAID OFF FOR ME. I DIDN'T KNOW THAT ONE MAN TOOK MY LIGHT WAYS WITH DANGEROUS SERIOUSNESS, FOR I WAS ONLY...

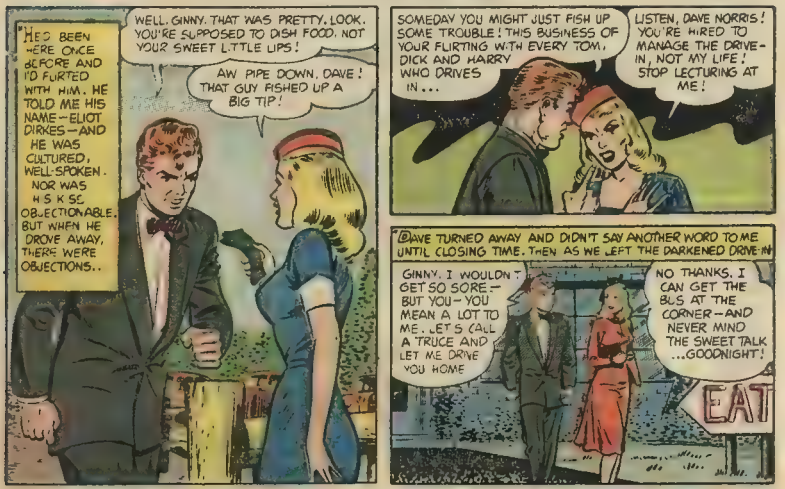
TEASING!

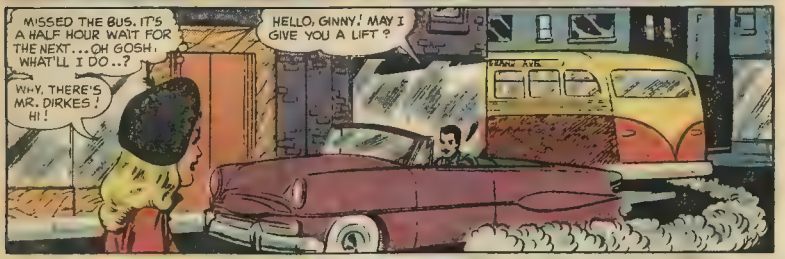
GINNY, YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL. BEST DISH AROUND HERE!
HEY, GINNY! BREAK IT UP! THERE'S WORK TO DO!
AW, PIPE DOWN, DAVE! I'M BUSY!
Haven Drive-Inn
Lunches—Dinner
HONK HONK


"AS WAITRESS IN A DRIVE-IN, I LEARNED THAT ALL WORK AND NO PLAY DON'T ADD UP. FLIRTING WITH THE MEN CUSTOMERS IS WHAT REALLY HELPED A GIRL ALONG. SO I PROVIDED A LITTLE EXTRA CURB SERVICE...
WELL, I GUESS YOUR ORDER IS COMPLETED, MR. DIRKES. DID YOU ENJOY THE BARBECUE?
BEING SERVED BY A LOVELY GIRL WAS THE BEST PART OF IT. I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF I...

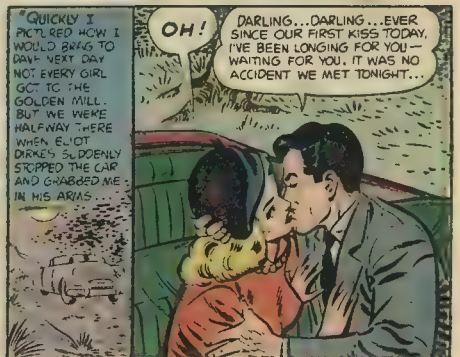

THE NEXT MOMENT HE PULLED ME TO HIM, HIS LIPS SEEKING MINE. I LET HIM TAKE HIS LITTLE PLEASURE..
YOU SWEET...SWEET ...THANK YOU.
WHAT'S A KISS?

ROMANTIC STORY

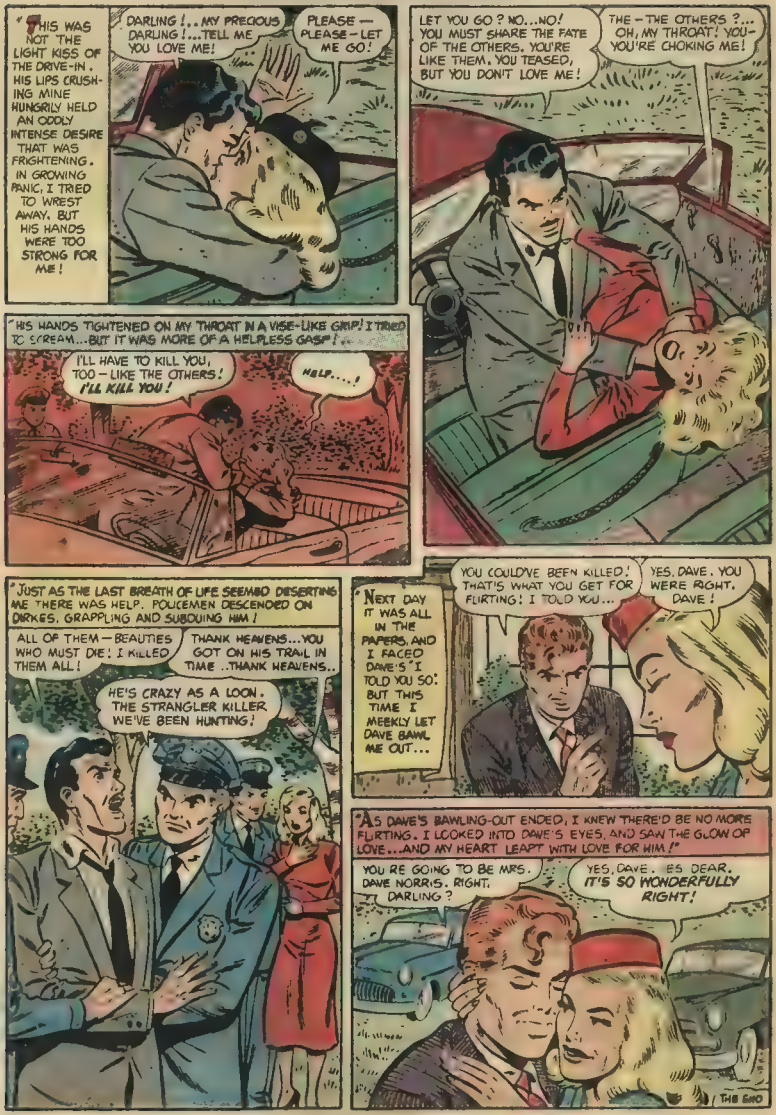

"HE'D BEEN HERE ONCE BEFORE AND I'D FLIRTED WITH HIM. HE TOLD ME HIS NAME—ELIOT DIRKES—AND HE WAS CULTURED, WELL-SPOKEN. NOR WAS HIS K SC OBJECTIONABLE. BUT WHEN HE DROVE AWAY, THERE WERE OBJECTIONS..
WELL, GINNY. THAT WAS PRETTY, LOOK. YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO DISH FOOD. NOT YOUR SWEET LITTLE LIPS!
AW PIPE DOWN, DAVE! THAT GUY FISHED UP A BIG TIP!
SOMEDAY YOU MIGHT JUST FISH UP SOME TROUBLE! THIS BUSINESS OF YOUR FLIRTING WITH EVERY TOM, DICK AND HARRY WHO DRIVES IN...
LISTEN, DAVE NORRIS! YOU'RE HIRED TO MANAGE THE DRIVE-IN, NOT MY LIFE! STOP LECTURING AT ME!
DAVE TURNED AWAY AND DIDN'T SAY ANOTHER WORD TO ME UNTIL CLOSING TIME. THEN AS WE LEFT THE DARKENED DRIVE-IN
GINNY, I WOULDN'T GET SO SORE—BUT YOU—YOU MEAN A LOT TO ME. LET'S CALL A TRUCE AND LET ME DRIVE YOU HOME
NO THANKS. I CAN GET THE BUS AT THE CORNER—AND NEVER MIND THE SWEET TALK ...GOODNIGHT!
EAT



"I ACCEPTED MR. DIRKES' INVITATION AND IN A MINUTE WAS IN HIS CAR RIDING COMFORTABLY AND HAPPILY. MR. DIRKES WAS PLEASANT COMPANY...
DO YOU HAVE TO GO RIGHT HOME, GINNY? WE COULD DRIVE OUT TO THE GOLDEN MILL.
THE GOLDEN MILL! THAT'S THE NEW SWANK ROAD-HOUSE 5 MILES OUT! I'D LOVE TO GO THERE!


"QUICKLY I PICTURED HOW I WOULD BRAG TO DAVE NEXT DAY. NOT EVERY GIRL GOT TO THE GOLDEN MILL. BUT WE WERE HALFWAY THERE WHEN ELIOT DIRKES SUDDENLY STOPPED THE CAR AND GRABBED ME IN HIS ARMS...
OH!
DARLING...DARLING...EVER SINCE OUR FIRST KISS TODAY, I'VE BEEN LONGING FOR YOU—WAITING FOR YOU. IT WAS NO ACCIDENT WE MET TONIGHT...

ROMANTIC STORY


"THIS WAS NOT THE LIGHT KISS OF THE DRIVE-IN. HIS LIPS CRUSHING MINE HUNGRILY HELD AN ODDLY INTENSE DESIRE THAT WAS FRIGHTENING. IN GROWING PANIC, I TRIED TO WREST AWAY. BUT HIS HANDS WERE TOO STRONG FOR ME!
DARLING!..MY PRECIOUS DARLING!...TELL ME YOU LOVE ME!
PLEASE — PLEASE — LET ME GO!
LET YOU GO? NO...NO! YOU MUST SHARE THE FATE OF THE OTHERS. YOU'RE LIKE THEM. YOU TEASED, BUT YOU DON'T LOVE ME!
THE — THE OTHERS?... OH, MY THROAT! YOU — YOU'RE CHOKING ME!
HIS HANDS TIGHTENED ON MY THROAT IN A VISE-LIKE GRIP! I TRIED TO SCREAM...BUT IT WAS MORE OF A HELPLESS GASP!
I'LL HAVE TO KILL YOU, TOO — LIKE THE OTHERS! I'LL KILL YOU!
HELP....!
"JUST AS THE LAST BREATH OF LIFE SEEMED DESERTING ME THERE WAS HELP. POLICEMEN DESCENDED ON DIRKES, GRAPPLING AND SUBDUING HIM!
ALL OF THEM — BEAUTIES WHO MUST DIE! I KILLED THEM ALL!
THANK HEAVENS...YOU GOT ON HIS TRAIL IN TIME..THANK HEAVENS..
HE'S CRAZY AS A LOON. THE STRANGLER KILLER WE'VE BEEN HUNTING!
"NEXT DAY IT WAS ALL IN THE PAPERS, AND I FACED DAVE'S "I TOLD YOU SO." BUT THIS TIME I MEEKLY LET DAVE BAWL ME OUT...
YOU COULD'VE BEEN KILLED! THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR FLIRTING! I TOLD YOU...
YES, DAVE. YOU WERE RIGHT, DAVE!
"AS DAVE'S BAWLING-OUT ENDED, I KNEW THERE'D BE NO MORE FLIRTING. I LOOKED INTO DAVE'S EYES, AND SAW THE GLOW OF LOVE...AND MY HEART LEAPT WITH LOVE FOR HIM!"
YOU'RE GOING TO BE MRS. DAVE NORRIS, RIGHT, DARLING?
YES, DAVE. YES DEAR. IT'S SO WONDERFULLY RIGHT!
THE END

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STOPS "BED WETTING"

Without Electrical Devices . . . Rubber Sheets . . . Alarms . . .

Ends Shame, Discomfort, Inconvenience Almost Miraculously!

SIMPLE SAFE TABLET DOES IT

DRY-TABS is the same safe medical discovery that is prescribed by many doctors. Now, it is available for the first time without prescription to all the victims of BED-WETTING who long to rid themselves of this distressing habit once and for all. DRY-TABS is safe, not habit forming, contains no harmful drugs—Follow simple directions.

"DRY-TAB THERAPY" Eventually Allows BED-WETTING Victims to Function Normally Without Further Medication

DRY-TABS, in most cases, does not offer merely temporary stopping of BED-WETTING. In case after case, as revealed in clinical tests conducted in hospitals by medical scientists, the DRY-TABS formula proved itself to be a tablet that gives direct support to the patient in controlling his BED-WETTING. The benefits of the DRY-TABS formula may be expected to be effective beyond the period when it is taken regularly. It helps the BED-WETTING victim to retrain, tends to increase strength of sphincter and detrusor muscles controlling urination. Many cases have discontinued the use of DRY-TABS after a short time and found they were functioning normally. So BED-WETTING victims do not have to be slaves to any kind of medication if their case is of the type that responds to the re-training power of DRY-TABS. This is probably one of the greatest advancements ever made in BED-WETTING therapy. Yes, once DRY-TABS stops BED-WETTING, its use may no longer be required, normal functioning and control may be developed almost miraculously. So don't hesitate a minute longer. Order DRY-TABS Today!

DRY-TABS Amazing Formula Effective in 75% of Cases

CASE NO. 1. Healthy, intelligent boy, 9 years old. BED-WETTING since infancy. Child could not break habit. All other medication failed. DRY-TABS formula taken for two three-week periods. Child has remained well for the past three years.

CASE NO. 2. Normal boy, history of BED-WETTING since infancy. Child had no organic defect. Various cures failed. Put on DRY-TABS formula regime. After a month, habit suddenly stopped.

CASE NO. 3. Male, aged 23 years. BED-WETTING since birth. Many forms of treatment failed. Unable to accept invitation to sleep out over-night. Recently married, and embarrassed by habit. After formula taken, wet bed the first two nights but never since that time.

CASE NO. 4. Girl, aged 6 years. Wet bed since infancy. Nervous, irritable. DRY-TABS formula administered for regular period. BED-WETTING stopped almost immediately. Slight relapse. Formula administered again. Child responded immediately once more, and history reveals no further relapse.

CASE NO. 5. Man, 42 years old, wet "heavily." Medication started. Wet during second week and continued to wet when medication was withdrawn for following week. Restarted after rest period, and after five-day treatment seemed to retain control of bladder function.

CASE NO. 6. Woman, 76 years old. DRY-TABS formula administered for 6 days. Improvement, upon withdrawal of medication, improvement remained. Continued period of control. One year without formula and control is adequate.

WHY endure the needless shame, embarrassment, humiliation . . . the discomfort and distress of this unfortunate habit? Why put up with the daily nuisance of changing and washing bed linen and clothes? Why suffer the mortification of foul smelling bedrooms . . . the expense of ruined furniture . . . the danger of catching cold and infectious rashes?

Doctors agree that BED-WETTING can cause nervousness, stuttering and emotional disturbances in children, very often seriously affecting their future and character, making them "psychological cripples."

But now the disgrace and danger of BED-WETTING can very easily be a thing of the past with amazing new DRY-TABS. At last, medical science has discovered a safe, new, easy way to stop BED-WETTING without electrical devices . . . without rubber sheets, alarms or special diets and without interrupting needed sleep. DRY-TABS, in easy-to-take tablet form, does away with BED-WETTING as painlessly, easily and simply as swallowing an aspirin. Yes, almost miraculously, amazing, safe DRY-TABS, used as directed, help stop functional BED-WETTING . . . relieve tension and strain, often the underlying cause in most cases of this unfortunate habit. Now, for the first time, safe DRY-TABS can be obtained without prescription.

DEVELOPED AFTER YEARS OF EXTENSIVE HOSPITAL AND CLINICAL RESEARCH AS REVEALED IN MEDICAL LITERATURE

The discoveries of science, many times, are brought about by indirect means. Take the case of the exclusive DRY-TABS formula. Medical practitioners chanced upon the formula while they were investigating a remedy for another illness. Noting the remarkable effect that this formula had upon BED-WETTING they concentrated their efforts on this new data and developed the formula to its present state of perfection. The result is the new DRY-TABS, a remarkable tablet that has brought new hope to thousands of tormented victims of BED-WETTING. Before this formula was released to the public, it was tested in clinics and hospitals by medical scientists on controlled groups of patients. The DRY-TABS formula is the result of thorough medical research, the same kind of research and care that is given to any product that is to be placed in the hands of the public. Chalk up BED-WETTING as one more ailment that has been conquered by the men of science. Think of it, no expensive electrical devices, cumbersome rubber sheets, special diets or mechanical alarms. Just a wonderful new tablet . . . DRY-TABS . . . product of medical research . . . offering the hope of a new future for all these sufferers of BED-WETTING. Be sure to order DRY-TABS today!

ADULTS: START LIVING A NORMAL LIFE TONIGHT!

Scientific tests actually prove DRY-TABS to be 75% effective in stopping this unfortunate habit—even after years of torment! Ends the constant worry of overnight hotel stops and fear of public embarrassment while napping on trains and buses. Don't wait another day. If your loved ones suffer the humiliation, the disgrace, insecurity and helplessness only BED-WETTING can cause, order DRY-TABS NOW! Easy to take, can be dissolved in water if necessary. Just follow simple directions.

MAKE THIS HOME TEST: Here is your guarantee of satisfaction. Try DRY-TABS for the prescribed period. If you are not completely overjoyed with DRY-TABS' amazing ability to help stop BED-WETTING, your purchase price will be refunded. Accept this no-risk offer. Order DRY-TABS now!

SEND NO MONEY: Just name and address for generous 3-week supply. On arrival pay postman only $3.00 per package plus C.O.D. charges on guarantee of complete satisfaction or money back.

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GARY PHARMACAL CO., Dept. 873
7500 Saginaw Avenue, Chicago 49, Illinois

Please send me 3-week supply of DRY-TABS on guarantee BED-WETTING must be stopped or money back.

- ☐ Send C.O.D., I will pay postman $3.00 per package plus postage.
- ☐ Cash enclosed, we pay all postage.
- ☐ Send 2 packages (6-week supply) for $5.50.

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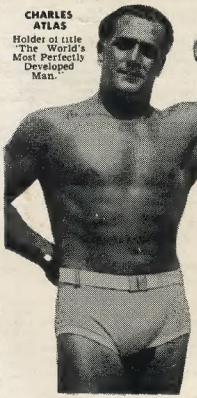
Hey SKINNY!
...YER RIBS ARE SHOWING!
DON'T LET HIM HIT YOU, JOE!
WATCH WHAT YOU SAY, FELLA
SHUT UP YOU BAG OF BONES!
DARN IT! I'M TIRED OF BEING A SKINNY SCARECROW CHARLES ATLAS SAYS HE CAN MAKE ME A NEW MAN! I'LL GAMBLE A STAMP AND GET HIS FREE BOOK.
LATER
BOY! IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG WHAT A BUILD NOW I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT BULLY
HERE'S A LOVE-TAP--- FROM THAT "BAG OF BONES," REMEMBER?
OH, JOE! YOU ARE A REAL HE-MAN, AFTER ALL.
WHAT A MAN
AND HE USED TO BE SO SKINNY!

I Can Make YOU a New Man, Too, In Only 15 Minutes a Day!



CHARLES ATLAS
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